**SPORTS** / A30

### Baddeley, Woods in final flight of US Open

**BUSINESS** / B1

### Investments from abroad surged to P46.56B in first 5 months

**WORLD** / A27

### China catches slave-labor boss amid national uproar

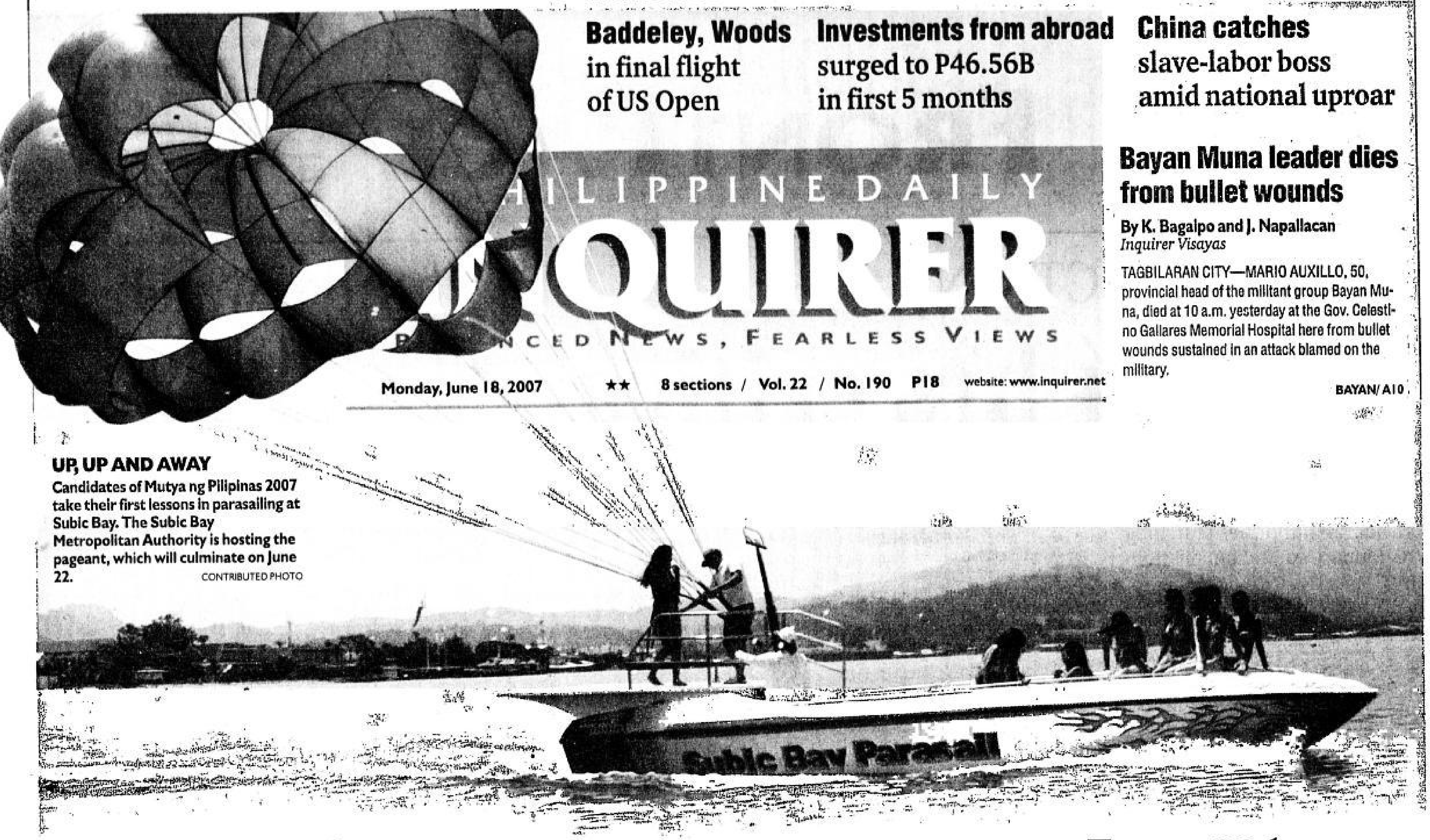
ILIPPINE DAILY
QUIRER
B NCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, June 18, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 190 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

## Bayan Muna leader dies from bullet wounds

**By K. Bagalpo and J. Napallacan**
*Inquirer Visayas*

TAGBILARAN CITY—MARIO AUXILLO, 50, provincial head of the militant group Bayan Muna, died at 10 a.m. yesterday at the Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital here from bullet wounds sustained in an attack blamed on the military.

BAYAN/ A10



**UP, UP AND AWAY**
Candidates of Mutya ng Pilipinas 2007 take their first lessons in parasailing at Subic Bay. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority is hosting the pageant, which will culminate on June 22. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# 2 anti-GMA generals back Trillanes probe

## 'Ammo' to be supplied on killings, 'Hello Garci' scandal

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

MILITARY REBEL-TURNED-SENATOR ANTONIO Trillanes IV is not alone in his plan to resurrect the "Hello Garci" controversy and take the Arroyo administration to task for the unabated extrajudicial killings.

A group of top military officials critical of President Macapagal-Arroyo has vowed to load the detained senator-elect with "ammunition" on these two issues once he begins work in the 14th Congress next month.

Two of these officials, both generals, spoke with the INQUIRER yesterday on condition of anonymity.

"We will send him (Trillanes) all the ammunition, the pieces of evidence that we have in our possession," one of the officials said in an interview. "He can use them as materials for Senate investigations or privilege speeches."

Trillanes could use as his opening salvo information on how another general "spoke openly" about liquidating militant activists in Luzon, according to the younger of the two generals.

The source said the discussion took place during a command conference at which the general asked his men about the status of their supposed "mission" against militant groups.

"He was asking his men how many militants they had killed so far," the source said. "They were discussing it openly. They were even boasting of (the killings).

"They really had a 'gunpowder' mentality (*utak pulbura*)."

The source said another general present at the command conference was so incredulous of the blatant discussion that he phoned then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga to ask: "Is killing militant

2 ANTI-GMA/ A10

## GO lawyer warns poll body on fake vote tallies

**By Nikko Dizon and Nash B. Maulana**
*Inquirer Mindanao*

THE CHIEF LAWYER OF THE Genuine Opposition (GO) yesterday warned the Commission on Elections against falling for what he said were manufactured vote tallies in support of administration claims the Team Unity (TU) senatorial candidates had shut out the opposition in the elections in Maguindanao.

GO chief counsel Sixto Brillantes issued the warning as a top-level team of Comelec officials, headed by Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., prepared to fly to Maguindanao this week to look into the reports of vote fraud.

The fraud could affect the 12th slot in the senatorial race which GO's Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and TU's Juan Miguel

GO LAWYER/ A21

## New center to document RP dialects

**By Peter La. Julian**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE—INstead of focusing solely on promoting Filipino as the national language, the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) is now looking at the development, propagation and preservation of the country's more than 179 dialects and regional languages.

"The KWF leadership has agreed to establish a center for information, documentation and research on the languages and various literatures of the Philippines," KWF Chair Ricardo Ma. Nolasco said.

Nolasco, who spoke in Filipino, delivered the keynote address at a recent international gathering here of 182 Filipino educators,

NEW CENTER/ A21

## 'Ghost town' loses P100M due to fish kill

**By Gabriel Cardinoza**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ANDA, PANGASINAN—THE Kakiputan Channel here has become a "ghost town" following the massive fish kill that hit at least five fishing villages in this island town last week.

Anda Mayor Nestor Pulido has placed the losses at P100 million.

No aquaculture activity was noted and the fish pens and cages appeared deserted during an inspection and water sampling conducted on Saturday by the National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center (NIFTDC).

"At this time, we should be seeing people feeding their stocks, harvesting *bangus* (milkfish) or releasing new fingerlings," said Dr. Westly Rosario, head of the NIFTDC, the research arm of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Although the waterway had

'GHOST TOWN'/ A4

**FISHERMEN** scoop up the dead "bangus" or milkfish in the island-town of Anda in Pangasinan.
RAY B. ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

## 2 lessons from the trenches

**By Winston A. Marbella**

*(Second of three parts)*

"CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN," THE INQUIRER headlined on its front page at the start of the 50-day campaign period. "The carnival is back in town," the story went on to say.

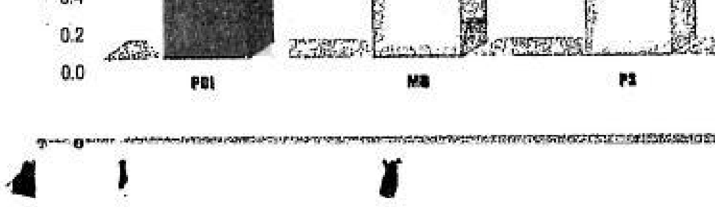
In a few more days (hopefully)—as soon as the Commission on Elections figures out what to do about the Maguindanao elections (or lack of it)—the carnival will be over. In its wake will be left, as the old song goes, "a street of sorrows, a boulevard of broken dreams." It is time for goodbyes.

Occasionally wiping away

2 LESSONS/ A21

## Inquirer most read broadsheet, says poll

**BROADSHEET YESTERDAY READERS**
(in millions)



**By Cyril L. Bonabente**
*Inquirer Research*

FOR THE SIXTH STRAIGHT year, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is the most read broadsheet in the country, according to Nielsen Media Research.

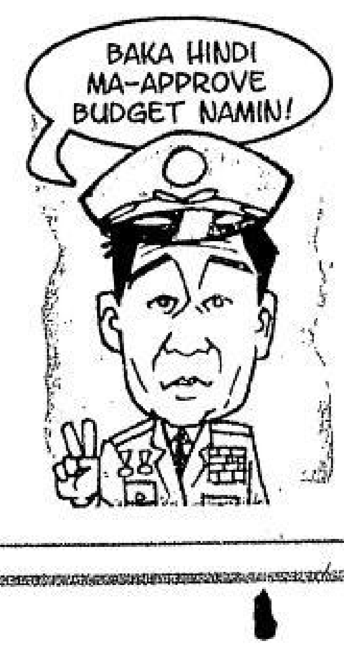
Nielsen's nationwide survey, conducted in the first quarter of 2007, showed that 54 percent of respondents who read a broadsheet the previous day said the INQUIRER was their broadsheet of choice.

The survey estimated that the INQUIRER had 1.47 million readers.

The survey questionnaire used in the face-to-face interviews listed six national broadsheets, excluding business and foreign papers.

"We thank all our readers and partners for always making us No. 1. I would like to assure them that this achievement will not lull us into complacency, but actually drive us to continuously innovate and improve to give everyone greater value," INQUIRER president

'INQUIRER'/ A6



BAKA HINDI MA-APPROVE BUDGET NAMIN!

## *Military may need Trillanes, says Esperon*

**By Vincent Cabreza**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*
**and Christine O. Avendaño**
*in Manila*

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Before the May 14 elections, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. sounded like a military

MILITARY/ A6

EZ2 28 31 | Mid-Day SUERTRES 1 9 3 | Evening 3 8 9
(All in exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
6 18 20 42 44 47
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# Second FrontPage

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Cloudy with Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/06/18/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

## BOSSI ABDUCTION

# Next 24 hrs critical

By Christine O. Avendano

THE NEXT 24 HOURS WILL BE crucial for authorities searching for kidnapped Italian missionary Giancarlo Bossi.

The military said yesterday it might be able to ensure the safe return of Bossi who was kidnapped a week ago by a 15-member armed group near his parish church in Zamboanga Sibugay.

"We might have a positive development in the next 24 hours," said Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, AFP commander for Metro Manila and head of the government panel in the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group. The Ahjag monitors cooperation between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the resolution of criminal activity in Mindanao.

Dolorfino said the chances of rescuing Bossi were "higher than 50 percent."

The government has been working with the MILF in the search for Bossi, who was last seen in the mountainous area in Barangay Mamugan in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Yesterday, Dolorfino declined to say if the Italian priest and his abductors were still in the area.

"I can't say; it might jeopardize ongoing operations," he said in a phone interview.

But Dolorfino did admit the authorities were following a "positive" lead.

Asked if Bossi would be recovered either through negotiations or rescue operations in the next 24 hours, Dolorfino said "possibly" and "God willing."

He said Bossi's abductors were "newcomers" in the business of kidnap for ransom, a departure from earlier military statements that the kidnappers had seized nine other hostages, including three foreigners, since 1999.

Dolorfino also denied reports Bossi had been turned over to the Abu Sayyaf.

"He definitely was not turned over to the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Dolorfino earlier said the military was confirming an alleged plan by the kidnappers to turn the Italian priest over to the extremist group in Basilan.

The plan was said to have been thwarted by the immediate response of the military and the MILF to the abduction of Bossi.

# Cardinal Rosales to retire; did Cruz quit?

By Nikko Dizon

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARDINAL Rosales, who turns 75 in August, is set to submit his letter of retirement to Pope Benedict XVI.

"It's SOP (standing operating procedure) among the prelates pushing 75, the year of their retirement," Peachy Yamsuan, spokesperson of the Manila Archdiocese, said yesterday in a phone interview.

She said it was up to the Pope to accept the cardinal's resignation.

Meanwhile, outspoken Dagupan-Lingayen Archbishop Oscar Cruz has reportedly tendered his resignation to the Vatican.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Cruz to confirm the report.

Msgr. Pedro Quitorio III, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday that there were a number of bishops and archbishops retiring this year.

Yamsuan said she was not certain if Rosales had already submitted his letter of retirement to the Pope.

She said the cardinal, whose birthday is on Aug. 10, was scheduled to fly to the Vatican later this month.

In a recent interview over Church-run Radio Veritas, Rosales said he had written his resignation letter on June 10.

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# PlunderWatch draws flak for 'turnaround' in Estrada case

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE ANTI-ESTRADA GROUP PlunderWatch yesterday drew flak from administration lawmakers for practically giving up on the plunder case against detained President Joseph Estrada.

Representatives Douglas Cagas of Davao and Exequiel Javier of Antique criticized the watchdog group for saying that an Estrada conviction would merely be a matter of "political expediency" for the Arroyo administration.

They said PlunderWatch, an alliance of militant and civil society groups that worked to bring down Estrada in 2001, might have struck a deal with the former President.

### Partnership

"Probably they have a partnership with Erap so that the group does not want to see him convicted anymore in the case they filed in 2001," Cagas said in a statement.

Javier agreed, saying PlunderWatch showed a "lack of dedication and sincerity in pinning down Estrada."

The lawmakers noted that PlunderWatch had been a vocal critic of Estrada's and had been heavily involved in the filing of plunder charges against him.

But interviewed during the oral summations for the trial last week, PlunderWatch convenor Carol Araullo said she was no longer keen on an Estrada conviction.

Araullo, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the Arroyo administration lacked the "moral ascendancy" to justify Estrada's conviction.

She said groups that had formerly sought Estrada's ouster were no longer as vocal and visible because "the sins of the Arroyo administration are much graver."

"You have political killings, graft and corruption, election fraud," she said.

Cagas zeroed in on Araullo's allegation that government prosecutors had ignored help from PlunderWatch.

"It's unimaginable that the prosecution would refuse help from PlunderWatch which strongly condemned his (Estrada's) wrongdoings before," he said.

### Conviction

Javier was confident that Estrada would be convicted on the basis of the evidence presented by the prosecutors.

"We are confident that the court will not play politics in this case but would rather stick to the facts, evidence and the law without consideration to the stature of the accused," he said.

In Vigan City, Estrada's chief accuser, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, expressed confidence that the former President would be found guilty.

"Erap will get a guilty verdict and will [stay in] jail," Singson told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

Singson said the evidence presented by the prosecution proved that Estrada, his former friend and drinking buddy, was guilty.

In his testimony before the court, Singson accused Estrada of receiving "jueteng" payoffs and P130 million in tobacco excise taxes.

Singson assailed former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, Estrada's lawyer, for saying that the governor should be charged with manufacturing documents, like a "ledger" on jueteng collections, that was submitted to the court.

"I did not falsify anything. What we submitted was genuine evidence to prove our case against Erap," Singson said. *With a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

# Joker, Ping fight over blue ribbon panel getting nastier

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BATTLE FOR THE CHAIRmanship of the Senate blue ribbon committee is turning out to be more vicious than the fight for the chamber's presidency.

In their continuing tussle, incumbent blue ribbon chair Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday lambasted would-be chair Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson for "lusting" after the post.

Lacson had earlier said the blue ribbon committee should be headed by an opposition senator like himself after it deliberately sat on the Jose Pidal case by delaying committee hearings and refusing to issue a report on the investigation.

### Botched job

But Arroyo said Lacson, a former national police chief, "botched" the Senate's Jose Pidal inquiry by failing to get a court order to open the bank accounts purportedly owned by President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Senator Arroyo (no relation) noted that the Jose Pidal case began in 2003 during the 12th Congress.

"The 13th Congress will lapse in two weeks and we will be witnessing the onset of the 14th Congress. Senator Lacson has yet to get a court order as the law requires and as the committee impressed upon him. And he lusts after the blue ribbon committee chair? He can have it," Arroyo said in a statement.

"He (Senator Arroyo) should be true to himself. He covered up for Mike Arroyo who is his main financier," said Lacson, pointing out that Arroyo was the lone senatorial candidate of Kampi, President Arroyo's political party.

But Arroyo would not take responsibility for the Pidal probe.

"Senator Lacson talks through his hat when he says he wants a closure of the Jose Pidal case. Of course there has been closure already, albeit caused by himself, by his own failure and inaction. He botched it, plain and simple," Arroyo said.

### Committee ruling

Arroyo cited a 2003 blue ribbon committee ruling that said it "cannot just inquire into the bank deposits of a private individual merely because a senator makes a public issue of it in a privilege speech and a congressional inquiry is constituted to satisfy what one might better describe as a public curiosity rather than the public interest."

Arroyo stressed that the 1955 Bank Secrecy Law "did not empower congressional committees to examine—without invocation of the judicial process—bank deposits but limited it rather to a select number of institutions and situations, one of which is Congress in an impeachment case."

Arroyo said Lacson must present proof "of illegal and not merely improper, of criminal and not merely salacious, conduct that could be traced to the First Gentleman."

In contrast to the battle for the blue ribbon committee, sparks have yet to fly between Senate President Manuel Villar and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in their contest for the position currently held by Villar.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

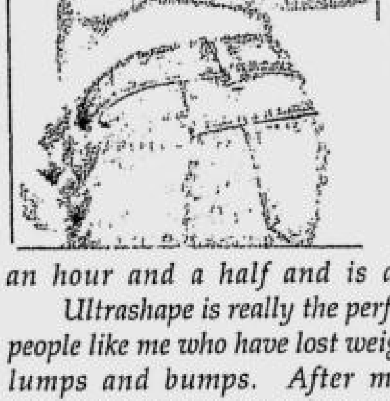
Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

# Goodbye Lipo, Hello Ultrashape!

Ultrashape – Lipo Without The Suction continues to make waves in the slimming industry since its official launch in Manila early last year. Tagged as the first non-invasive breakthrough in body contouring, Ultrashape uses an ultrasound beam to breakdown and liquefy fats from outside the body. Promising an average reduction of about 2cm in just one treatment, it effectively reduces fat deposits on multiple body areas such as the tummy, flanks and thighs.

A small amount of fat reduction is just not worth undergoing surgery for. Liposuction usually involves massive body contouring, and is often not recommended when only a few inches of fat have to be removed. Thus, for the majority of people who only need a few touch-ups, Ultrashape offers a much safer alternative. It gives the benefits of liposuction without the risks or side effects, surgical scars and downtime. The result: Smooth, even and shapely curves you can flaunt even without your clothes on!

Due to its increasing popularity, demand for Ultrashape is high often resulting to fully booked appointment schedules from its growing roster of clients. These women have testified – they have finally found the best alternative to liposuction!



**Dawn Zulueta–Lagdameo, 38**

*"When Ultrashape was offered to me, I was excited! Ultrashape concentrates on that last hard-to-lose fat that remains in your body even after you've lost weight. I told myself, at last, there was a chance to lose all that stubborn fat that just wouldn't seem to go away. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. The treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a month.*

*Ultrashape is really the perfect finishing touch for people like me who have lost weight but still have some lumps and bumps. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever. So you see, liposuction is unnecessary."*

**Lyn Ching–Pascual, 34**

*"What intrigued me about Ultrashape is the claim – the easy treatment you can have in your lunch break. Apart from that, a friend of mine said that her friend tried Ultrashape as soon as it came out in the market. And she immediately lost 2 inches in just one month! Ultrashape promises an average of about 2cm, that's true, but it's also possible for someone to lose even more than that too. That's why for me, even if liposuction was the only weight-loss treatment available, I'd rather walk up a building 100 times than have an operation because I don't want the possibility of dying for vanity.*

*With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a better slimming option. Since it's non-invasive, I've got nothing to worry about. After trying it firsthand, I was like, 'Is this real?!' I just walked in, got the treatment and after an hour, I was on my way back to work again! It's as if nothing happened. The best part was, I could feel my tummy flatten only after a few weeks! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down excess fats!"*

**Cristina Gonzalez–Romualdez, 42**

*"Nothing really compares to Ultrashape. When I tried it, I immediately lost 4cm in my tummy after only 1 session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do! Diet pills and crash dieting don't work for me. With my catering and events business, I can't just turn my back from tasting and savoring my own menus. More so, if it's lipo we're going to compare Ultrashape with, lipo doesn't even come close to it as far as safety is concerned. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle for liposuction?! I must be very desperate or I must be so fat that I could no longer move before I'd consider getting it done. I just find it too dangerous!"*

Undeniably, Marie France's Ultrashape is solid proof that the trends in slimming now slant towards the approach that's safer yet as effective. After going through a weight-loss program, it is highly recommended to continue with Ultrashape treatments right after. It's the best final touch-up in getting rid of remaining stubborn fats in the body. For booking schedules, call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639).

# 'Ghost town' loses P100M due to fish kill

From page A1

been cleaned of thousands of dead fish, the air on Saturday stank. Nets in fish pens and fish cages had also been raised to dry.

The fish kill started on Monday in the villages of Awag, Dolaoan, Mal-ong, Siapar and Carot.

The villages are located in the Kakiputan Channel, which separates this town from Bolinao.

Hundreds of tons of bangus were lost. At least 15,000 kilograms or about 30,000 bangus were stocked in each cage and pen, according to Pulido.

There were some 60 fish cages and another 60 fish pens, for a total of 120 structures, in the Kakiputan Channel, according to the mayor.

Pulido said the dead fish were loaded onto dump trucks and taken to an area in Mal-ong village where these were buried.

On normal days, the 120 fish pens and cages in the channel are guarded by at least two caretakers but when harvest time comes (about the same time the fish kill struck), at least 25 people would be in the structures to help harvest the stocks.

People manning the structures in the channel started leaving the villages on Wednesday because of the fish kill.

"It will take time before they can release fingerlings again," Rosario said after testing the dissolved oxygen level in one area of the channel.

"Look, it's only 0.1 parts per million (ppm). The desired level [of oxygen] is 4 ppm," he said.

Cosme Caballar, a caretaker of fish cages in Awag, said Vice Mayor Napoleon Celeste, who owns a fish cage and three pens, suffered huge losses.

Caballar could not quantify Celeste's losses but he said that from what he heard, Celeste and his partner lost about P35 million.

## Worst

"This is the worst fish kill so far in Anda," Caballar said, as he threw fish feed to the bangus that were struggling to live in his fish cage.

Even before the fish kill, his office had already conducted sampling and tests in the area, Rosario said.

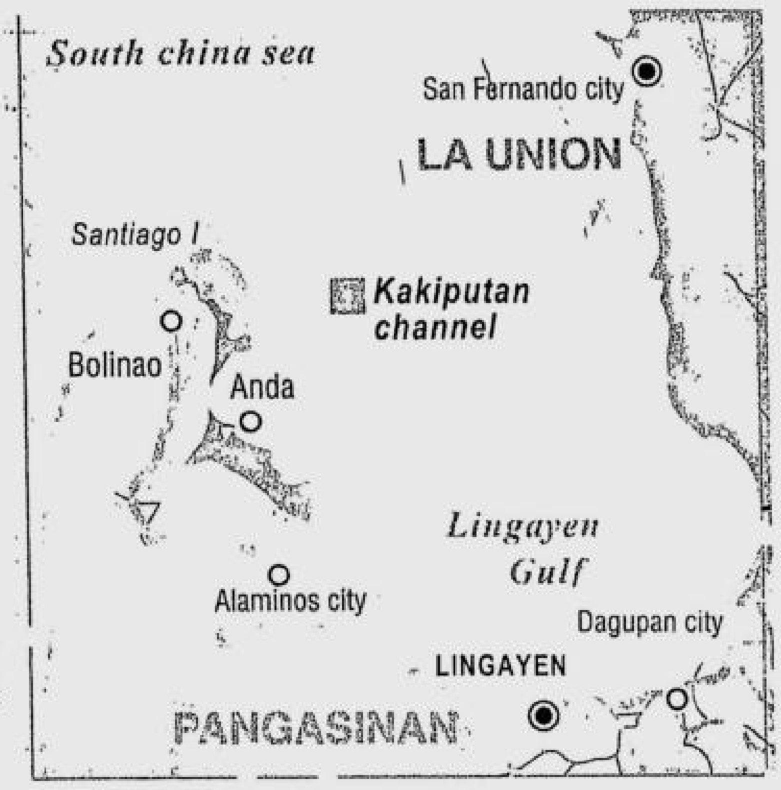
"The neap tide has contributed greatly to the fish kill. The water became stagnant and this caused the problem," Rosario said.

A neap tide is the lowest tide of the lunar month, usually occurring in the second and fourth quarters of the moon.

Rosario said dissolved oxygen could come from two sources—sunlight, because of photosynthesis, and mechanical means, like the movement of the water in tides.

"So, two weeks ago we saw the problem there and we advised the farmers and local governments that it was high risk during that period," he said.

Pangasinan is the Ilocos region's leading bangus producer largely because of the fish pens and fish cages, which are concentrated in the Kakiputan Channel.



MAP shows Kakiputan Channel—the area of the fish kill.

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- Saturdays • 9:00AM-12:00NN
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- Saturdays • 9:00AM-12:00NN

BASIC CHINESE 3
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- Saturdays • 9:00AM-12:00NN

BASIC CHINESE 4
- Saturdays • 9:00AM-12:00NN

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- Saturdays • 9:00AM-12:00NN

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Monday, June 18, 2007
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 6:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 5:38-42

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you this: do not oppose evil with evil; if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your coat as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you."

**Commentary**

*Do we avoid giving offense in our ministry? We are exhorted to live with patient endurance—listen to the litany of what Paul says is to be expected if you work with the grace of God for others! There are graces abounding as well: the Holy Spirit, the power and the truth of God, and the gift of rejoicing as we share all this bounty with others. Do we really live as though we have nothing? But everything is ours!*

*Jesus wants everything from us, not just the surface response to commands. We are to live as he did: no resistance to injury—we are to live without violence, without harm to others, no matter what is done to us. What does this mean? It means to look the one who harms us in the eye, and then turn and let them see what they have done by putting oneself vulnerably before them. What others take, give them more so that they can see what they are doing. And live with generosity. How little we have learned—sadly!*

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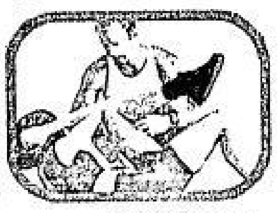

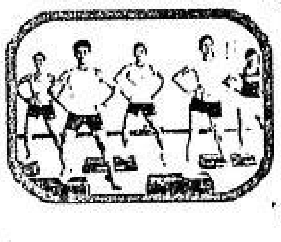

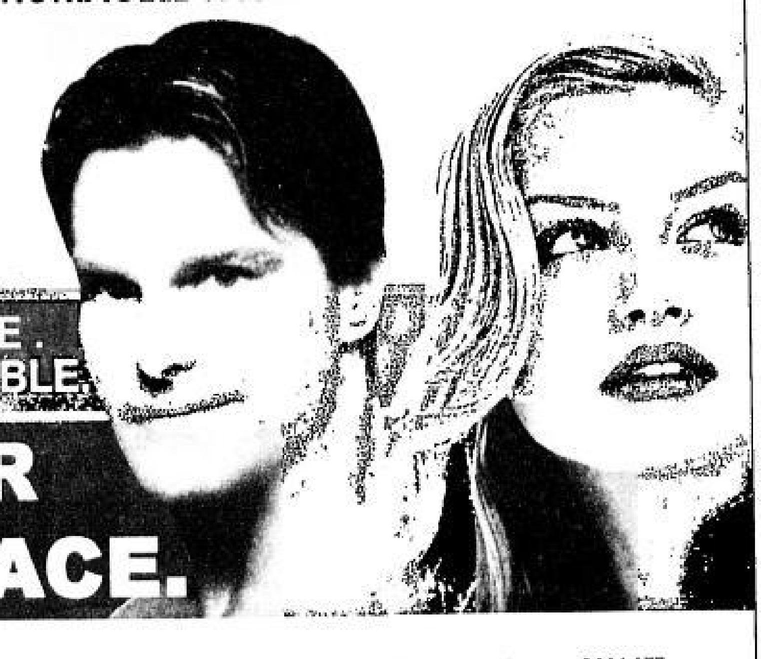

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# Inquirer most read broadsheet, says poll

From page A1

and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said yesterday.

Nielsen's 13th Media Index covered 2,550 respondents aged 10 years and above from all socioeconomic classes in 22 cities all over the country. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Placing second in the survey was Manila Bulletin with 47 percent or about 1.27 million readers, followed by Philippine Star with 35 percent or an estimated 1.15 million readers.

Nielsen said the sum of the readership shares of the three newspapers exceeded 100 percent because some respondents read more than one broadsheet.

Of the 2,550 interviewees, 1,000 came from Metro Manila. The rest came from other urban centers.

## No. 1 in Mega Manila

Among the broadsheets, the INQUIRER had the highest readership in Mega Manila (49 percent), in the Visayas (77 percent) and in Mindanao (90 percent). Mega Manila comprises Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal.

Overall "yesterday readership" of newspapers (broadsheets and tabloids), however, went down, from 24 percent during the first quarter of 2006 to 19 percent during the same period this year. Broadsheet readership decreased from 9 percent to 8 percent.

Nielsen Media Research is one of the leading providers of television audience measurement and advertising information services worldwide. It used to release the Media Index annually, but in 2006, it started conducting the readership survey twice a year.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer was established in 1985 by Eugenia Apostol and other media practitioners to meet the demand for a credible broadsheet that was free from the influence of the Marcos regime.

It helped chronicle the historic 1986 Edsa Revolution, which toppled then President Ferdinand Marcos.

Starting with P1 million in seed money that saw the publication of 30,000 copies of the paper's maiden issue on Dec. 9, 1985, the INQUIRER has expanded to cater to more than one million readers.

## Innovations

Romualdez mentioned innovations the INQUIRER has undertaken: "We're publishing more investigative reports. Junior Inquirer is now circulated nationwide, our positive stories are highlighted daily with a red tag, and Sunday Inquirer Magazine has reformatted and is now printed on glossy paper."

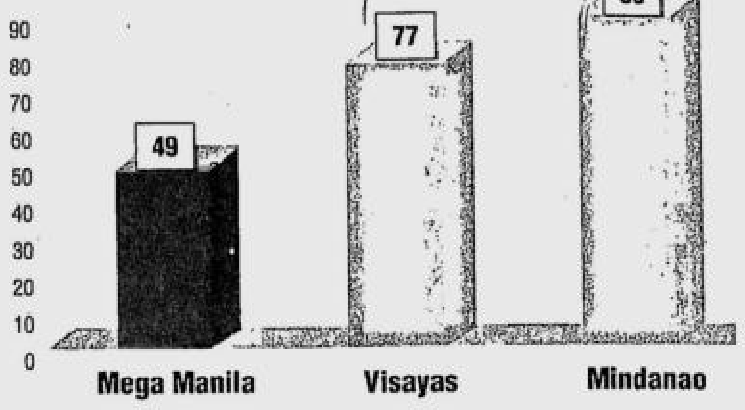
The INQUIRER has also brought information to the Web. Its official news website, www.inquirer.net, is currently the most visited Filipino news site.

The newspaper's sister publications include Libre, Cebu Daily News, Bandera and Tumbok.

The INQUIRER has printing presses in Makati City, Laguna, Cebu City and Davao City.

**INQUIRER YESTERDAY READERS BY AREA**

(in percent)



# Military may need Trillanes—Esperon

From page A1

stockade was the only place Antonio Trillanes IV was fit to be in.

Now, Esperon is seeing the silver lining in the electoral victory of the former Navy lieutenant, who the military is prosecuting for involvement in the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Esperon said here on Saturday that the Armed Forces might need Trillanes (Philippine Military Academy Class 1995)—as well as Senator-elect Gregorio Honasan (Class 1971), Senators Panfilo Lacson (1971) and Rodolfo Biazon (1961)—to push a legislative agenda that would benefit the military.

With his poll victory, Trillanes joins the bloc of former military officers in the Senate.

Esperon refused to discuss Trillanes' case at length during a talk with reporters. He referred to the new senator simply as "that gentleman" and said rebel officers would still face charges despite the results of the elections.

But if he would be asked to offer the Senate's "PMA bloc" some suggestions, Esperon said the AFP could seek from them laws prescribing fixed service terms for appointed military officials, as well as a law that would hasten military promotions.

Esperon also said he was interested in amendments to the law governing the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to increase the AFP's share in conversion revenues.

## Wish list

The AFP uses its share to finance its modernization program and arms upgrade, he said.

Esperon feels the military has not been getting a fair share from the sale and privatization of the former American bases in the country.

"We are getting something like half of the proceeds of the BCDA's sales only after they deduct 39 percent, so 61 percent is divided between the BCDA and the AFP," he said.

One thing Esperon made clear—his legislative wish list would not automatically absolve Trillanes of his responsibility for the Oakwood incident.

"Theoretically, and it is the rule, even if you run for office and become a civilian, you still fall under the jurisdiction of the court-martial until a verdict is handed out. That is how it works," he said.

## 'That gentleman'

"A gentleman supposedly has won an election, but the (court-martial) has jurisdiction over him … He is (undergoing trial) before the Regional Trial Court of Makati for a graver offense, he is also facing confinement (because) the case is not bailable.

"Two sets of rules (demand) that gentleman's confinement. There is no change. (Winning) an elective post does not change the status of the respondent."

Before the elections, Esperon figured in several verbal exchanges with Trillanes and his lawyers over the ex-lieutenant's legal cases.

One week before the elections, Esperon told reporters in Jolo that "his (Trillanes') winning will not extinguish his liability" before the courts.

"The laws of the military are very harsh. He just has to face them," Esperon said then.

Esperon, a member of PMA Class 1974, was at the academy to receive an achievement award and attend the incorporation rites of the 284 freshmen cadets of Class 2011.

## More votes for Trillanes

Some PMA teachers said there was great interest in how the cadets viewed Trillanes' victory.

While Maj. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, declined to discuss the impact of the elections, he has not stopped cadets from accessing information about the elections, his aides told the INQUIRER.

A PMA teacher polled one class before the elections, asking the cadets to choose between Trillanes and Honasan. Trillanes got more votes in the mock poll, said the teacher.

But at the Fort del Pilar Elementary School, where many PMA employees and their families are registered, Lacson got 542 votes, against Trillanes' 494 and Honasan's 437 votes.

## Jalosjos case

Asked how Trillanes could attend sessions in the Senate while facing charges, a military lawyer likened Trillanes' situation to what happened to convicted child-rapist and former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos.

AFP lawyer Lt. Col. Jose Feliciano Loi said both Trillanes and Jalosjos were charged in nonbailable cases.

"Since his case was not bailable because there was a conviction, (Jalosjos) was in jail. Although he was reelected congressman, he could not attend the session in Congress," Loi said.

"Probably that will also apply to the good Senator-elect Sonny Trillanes," he said.

Jalosjos was convicted of raping a minor in 1996. Malacañang has commuted his life sentence to 16 years, making him eligible for release next year.

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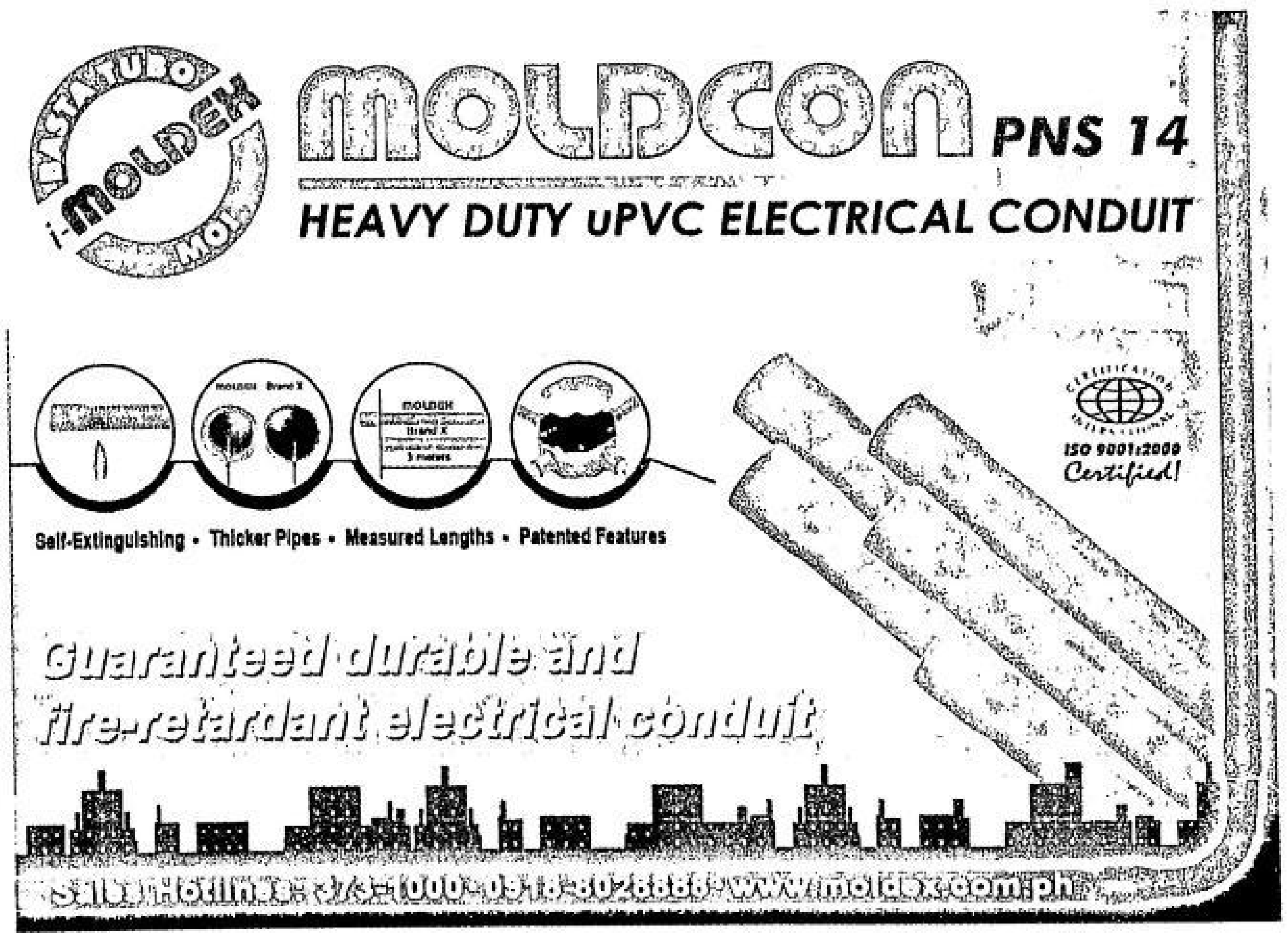
INQUIRER

**NEW ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN**
Newly appointed Assistant Ombudsman for the Finance and Administrative Office (FAO) Lydia O. Resurreccion (second from left) takes her oath before Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez. Resurreccion was assistant secretary for financial and management service at the Department of Justice before being named Assistant Ombudsman. Looking on are Executive Assistant Lulu M. Pascual and DOJ Witness Protection Program consultant Teresita C. Lucas.



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# Gonzalez gets power over immigration

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ APpears to have been quietly rewarded by President Macapagal-Arroyo with the Bureau of Immigration.

On April 2, Ms Arroyo signed Administrative Order No. 175 strengthening the "Department of Justice in its role of ensuring that the Bureau of Immigration would be a more effective and highly responsive organization to carry out necessary police measures of the government."

This has made Gonzalez the de facto immigration chief, documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed.

The order was signed prior to Malacañang's announcement on April 18 of the appointment of former Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan as immigration commissioner in place of Alipio Fernandez who won the mayoral elections in Dagupan City.

The President invoked her "continuing authority" to transfer any function under the Office of the President to any other department or agency in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended by PD 1772 and the Administrative Code of 1987.

The order gives the justice secretary or his duly authorized representative "the power to act on immigration cases, including waiver of visas and admission of aliens, and to countermand decisions of the BI Board of Commissioners."

The DOJ chief also has the power to "transfer, detail, assign or reassign officials and personnel, including presidential appointees, of the BI.

"Provided, however, that such reassignment will not affect the tenure of office of the officials concerned nor result in the change of status, demotion in rank or deduction in salary," the AO said.

Libanan, as vice chair of the House committee on justice, had served as a member of the Commission on Appointments which thrice bypassed Gonzalez's appointment.

# Lacson raps antilaundering body over freeze

SEN. PANFILO LACSON HAS CHASTISED the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) for freezing some P1.21 billion in transacted funds during the last election period, saying it smacked of political persecution.

Lacson questioned the AMLC's announcement that it had frozen accounts involved in 8,520 suspicious transactions reported to the council by banks and other financial institutions in May.

Under Republic Act No. 9160, the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, daily transactions involving P500,000 or more are considered "suspicious" and the financial institutions are mandated to report the transactions to the council for investigation.

Lacson, in a statement, said the AMLC should have considered that the transactions were made during the campaign period when cash was in high demand.

"Although the AMLC has the power to do that (freeze the accounts), may I remind it of the provision in the law that safeguards it against being used as a tool for political persecution during or after the election period," said Lacson, one of the principal authors of Section 16 of the AMLA which states:

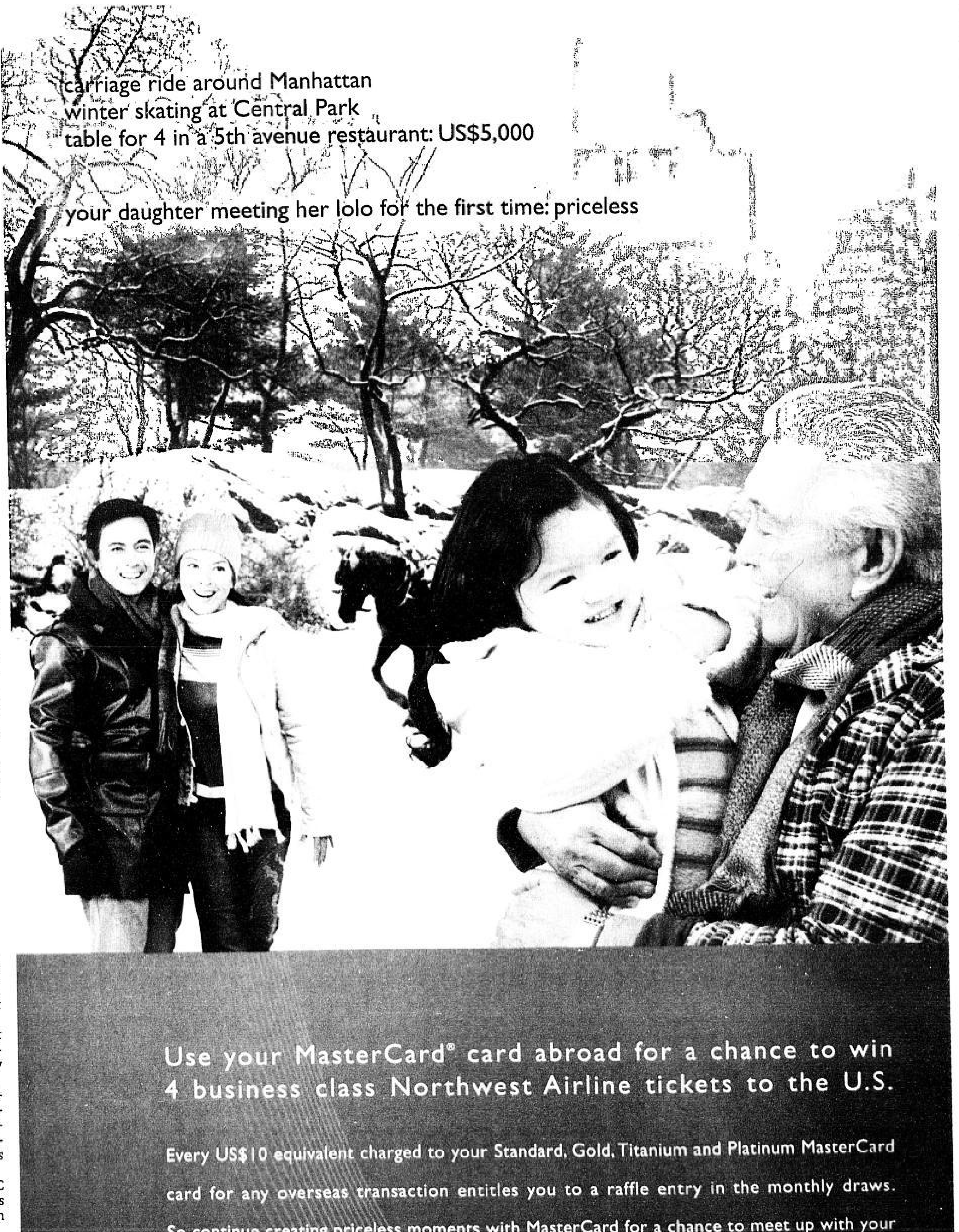
"No case for money laundering may be filed against and no assets shall be frozen, attached or forfeited, to the prejudice of a candidate for an electoral office during an election period."

"I advise [AMLC Executive Director Vicente] Aquino to review the law and take the necessary steps to correct this mistake of freezing these accounts. It is quite understandable for transactions to exceed the P500,000 threshold during an election period due to the campaign funding requirements of candidates," Lacson said.

The AMLC reported it had frozen since May some P1.21 billion on suspicion the funds had come from illegal sources.

This after Aquino said his office had received reports from banks and other financial institutions of an increase in the "suspicious" movement of money.

*Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Mitch Remo*



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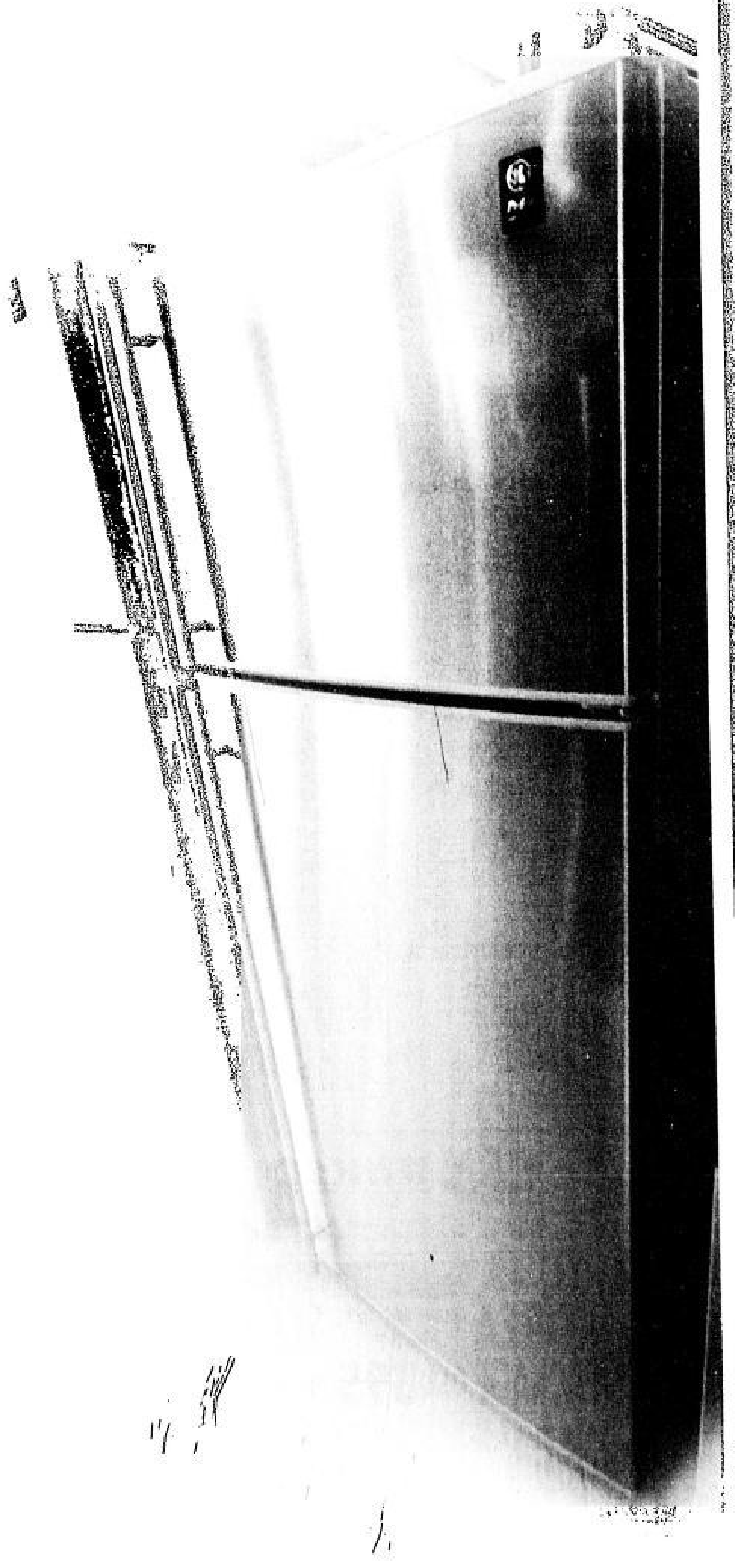

GE imagination at work

# 2 anti-GMA generals back Trillanes probe

From page A1

activists really the policy of the military nowadays?"

Surprised by the question, Senga supposedly replied: "No!"

Senga retired in July 2006 after serving as AFP chief of staff for a year.

The second source expressed fear that lower-ranking officers might get the impression that liquidating political activists and other perceived enemies of state was a ticket for promotion.

"The idea that these things are part of a government policy will only embolden them to kill even more," he warned during the interview.

Since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001, a total of 893 militant group leaders and members had been killed, according to the human rights group Karapatan. The INQUIRER count is 297.

## Senate probe

Last week, Trillanes announced that he would call for a Senate inquiry into the rampant political killings, many of which had been blamed on rogue elements within the Armed Forces.

"Trillanes knows about the (political killings) already, but he doesn't have the details that we have yet," said the younger general.

The general accused of prodding his men to kill political activists was involved in other illegal matters as well, according to the two sources.

Earlier this year, they said the general visited a major Army camp in Luzon to campaign against Trillanes and antigovernment party-list groups, such as Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela.

"He was in the camp on at least three occasions, telling the officers there not to vote for these people," according to the older general.

## Not letting go of Garci

Like Trillanes, the two INQUIRER sources said they were not also letting go of the "Hello Garci" controversy, which the Arroyo administration and its allies had repeatedly described as a closed book.

TRILLANES

The sources said they would supply the senator-elect, one of the leaders of the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003, more information on military officers involved in massive cheating in the 2004 elections.

They said the names of the military top brass mentioned in the "Garci" phone conversations were "more or less complete." But many lower-ranking officers similarly used in the alleged cheating were yet to be identified, they said.

"The names that have been made public so far comprise not even 10 percent of the soldiers actually involved in the cheating," the younger of the two sources said.

Among the generals mentioned in the supposed phone conversation between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

# Bayan Muna leader dies from bullet wounds

From page A1

Auxillo was the 297th victim of extrajudicial executions since 2001, according to the INQUIRER count. Leftist groups put the figure at more than 800, which includes victims of armed clashes.

Auxillo, of Barangay Kabiguhan, Trinidad town, had just finished a meeting with local fishermen at around 11:30 p.m. Friday in the public market of Bien Unido town when he was shot twice in the head and left arm by a lone assailant.

Police identified the gunman as Hilario "Larry" Diola, of Poblacion, Bien Unido, who was at large.

Insp. John Gilbert Basalo of the provincial police said the gunman was identified by a witness, Evelyn Sayson, owner of the videoke bar where Auxillo was shot.

## Military connection

But Bayan Muna coordinator John Ruiz III said "a military connection could not be ruled out."

Ruiz said Auxillo's shooting could be the work of an organization called the Mata na Bol-anon Movement, which is believed backed by the military. He said the group had accused Auxillo of having connections with the communist New People's Army (NPA).

Col. Jessie Dellosa, commander of the Army's 302nd Brigade based in Bohol, dismissed the accusation, claiming the gunman was an ally of Auxillo. He said the motive was a personal grudge.

Dellosa insisted that Diola was not connected with the military.

Arman Perez, Bayan Muna regional coordinator, believed that the killing was ordered by the military because of Auxillo's active role in organizing farmers and fishermen to oppose "destructive government-initiated projects" in Bohol, such as the oil exploration project in the Bohol-Cebu Strait.

Perez said Auxillo had been going to Loon and Maribojoc to discuss with fishermen their concerns about the upcoming seismic survey in the area.

## Protests planned

"This is tragic. We lost a wonderful father on the occasion of Father's Day,'" Fernando Hicap, chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), said in a statement.

Hicap said Pamana-Sugbo, the Pamalakaya chapter in Cebu, and other militant groups would stage protest rallies in Bohol to demand an investigation of Auxillo's killing, the immediate capture of the assailant and the prosecution of the mastermind.

*With a report from TJ Burgonio in Manila*

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# GSIS chief files libel suit vs solon

THE HEAD OF THE Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has filed a libel suit against Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante for alleging that the state pension fund was being used to bankroll the bid of Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia for the speakership of the House of Representatives.

"Without any shred of evidence on hand, respondent Abante imputed the very crime of bribery and, by implication, malversation of public funds, against (the) GSIS and the undersigned," Winston Garcia, GSIS president, said in his affidavit filed before the Pasay City prosecutor's office.

The GSIS chief is the son of the Cebu solon.

Abante, a key ally of Speaker Jose de Venecia, is supporting the latter's bid to retain the speakership.

"'Shameful,' 'immoral' and 'illegal' were just some of the inflammatory words he used to cast aspersions on the institution and myself," Garcia said in his complaint.

"As a pension fund on which our public servants rely for their future sustenance, our continuing existence is built on trust," he said.

A similar accusation was made by a supporter of the elder Garcia against De Venecia.

Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing, a member of Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), like Garcia, earlier said he was offered a "fat envelope clearly containing cash" by a member of De Venecia's staff.

The offer was purportedly made to entice Bagatsing into supporting De Venecia's "legislative agenda," and his bid for a fifth term as Speaker.

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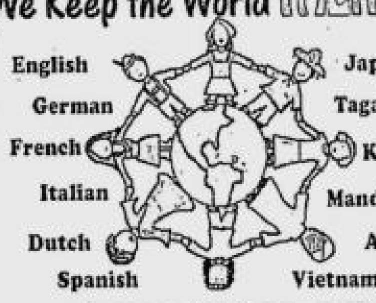
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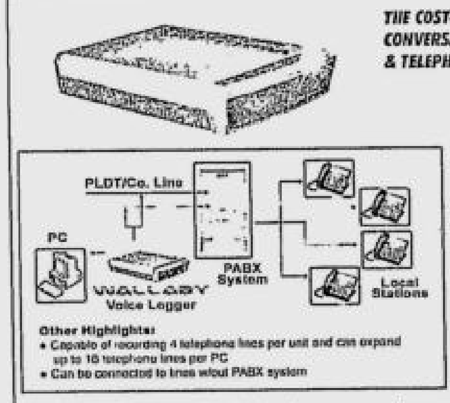
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# Finding your own space at Rockwell Center

Living in the city doesn't give you much space, specially if you lead a very hectic lifestyle. While most of us would find refuge in the bucolic sights of a provincial getaway, more and more people are now finding their own space at the heart of Makati.

So instead of driving out of town for that much-needed rest, go for a well-designed recreational space complete with pocket gardens and canopied walkways—Rockwell Center. A lifestyle shopping mall, first-rate offices, very comfortable residential towers, a well-appointed sports and leisure club, and a world-class academic institution surround this sanctuary—all magnificently developed and skillfully designed by Rockwell Land Corporation.

## From power plant to lush lifestyle mall.

Rockwell Center, the flagship project of Rockwell Land, is a 15.5-hectare development. At the hub stands its popular lifestyle shopping mall—the site of a real power-generating plant decades ago. It is now a four-level retail center with over 250 stores consisting of a supermarket, specialty shops, restaurants, state-of-the-art cinemas and other entertainment features, including a bowling and billiards center. The topmost level also houses The Chapel of The Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Rockwell residents find going to the mall very convenient, as they have the luxury to access the shopping mall through conveniently located tunnels and walkways.

The Power Plant Mall is designed for a unique shopping experience to satisfy everyone's retail needs, now made even more impressive with the opening of its newest wing, Archaeology. Located on the second floor, this fashion destination features up-and-coming designers and entrepreneurs. All the latest and most eclectic fashion pieces from funky vintage accessories to imported, chic outfits can be found here.

*What gives character to Rockwell Center is its distinct architectural discipline*

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## Meet the neighbors.

What gives character to Rockwell Center is its distinct architectural discipline. Each building complements and contrasts with its surroundings, thus defining its own unique character to the overall aesthetic of the Center's masterplan.

To date, Rockwell Land has put up six luxurious residential developments, most of which were designed by American architectural firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, the designers of Chicago's Sears Tower. Located at the West Block of Rockwell Center are four residential towers that are situated in an exclusive 2.8-hectare garden block namely Rizal Tower, Luna Gardens, Amorsolo Square and Hidalgo Place.

*One Rockwell will feature the world's first Z-shaped units*

Meanwhile, at the east side of Rockwell Center stand The Manansala and Joya Towers & Lofts.

The Manansala, with its two towers standing at 41 and 38 storeys, is perfect for couples and growing families. Its elegant Asian-themed lobby rivals those of international hotels with its tasteful design.

Joya Towers & Lofts is a twin-tower residential condominium that first introduced loft units in the local market. The lofts are an artist's dream come true; owners have the luxury of designing their bare units to suit their taste.

## And then there is Number One Rockwell.

One Rockwell is the company's most anticipated and daring project yet. It is designed by Miami-based architectural firm Arquitectonica, which has helped shape the skylines of New York, Chicago and San Francisco. One Rockwell will feature the world's first Z-shaped unit—an innovation by local architects Pimentel,

Rodriguez, Simbulan & Partners—providing spectacular views from both sides of the building. The Glass House model unit beside the Power Plant Mall invites buyers to come and see the unique Z-Loft concept for themselves.

The East Tower, with its impressively sharp edges, offers a breathtaking 180-degree view and ten different sceneries. It reaches up 45 storeys, with the Sky Deck located at the 41st level. Another first in architectural designs in the country, the uniquely designed East Tower showcases the innovation that One Rockwell adheres to.

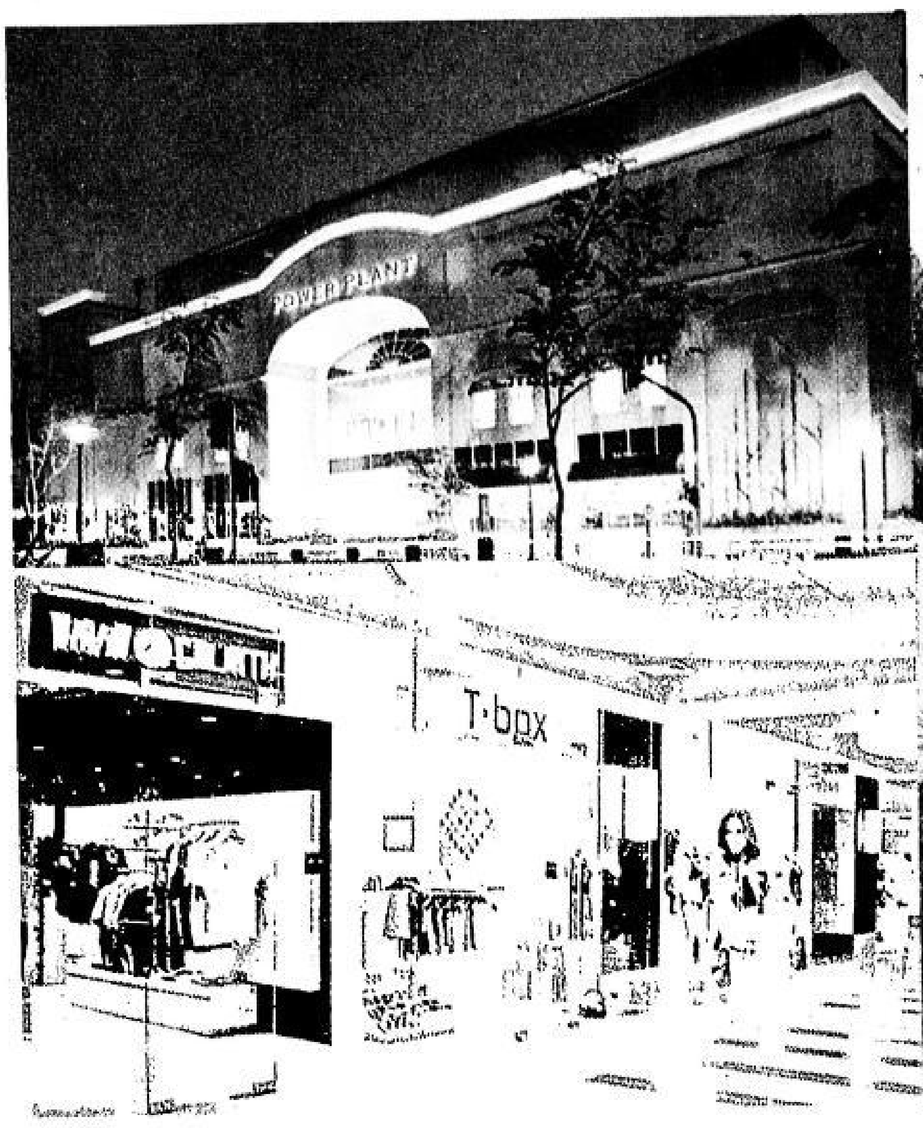
Meanwhile, the West Tower with its curvilinear design perfectly complements the East Tower's sharp edges, as it is made up of two halves that seem to slide away from each other at the center. Once completed, the West Tower of One Rockwell will be the tallest residential building in Rockwell Center, standing 55 storeys high.

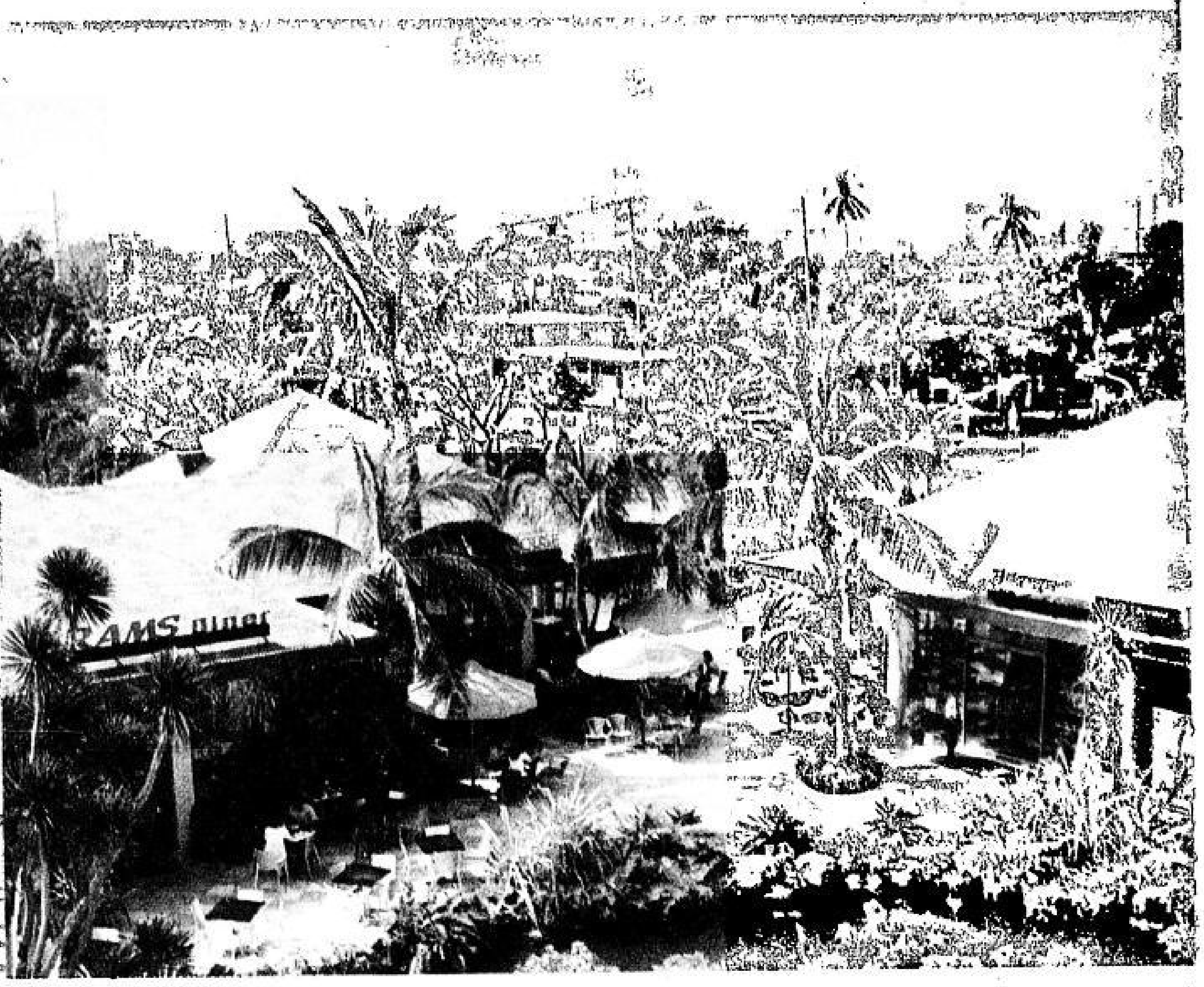
A circular driveway bringing the two towers together will lead to One Rockwell's lush garden outside the main lobby, only minutes away from a pocket retail area.

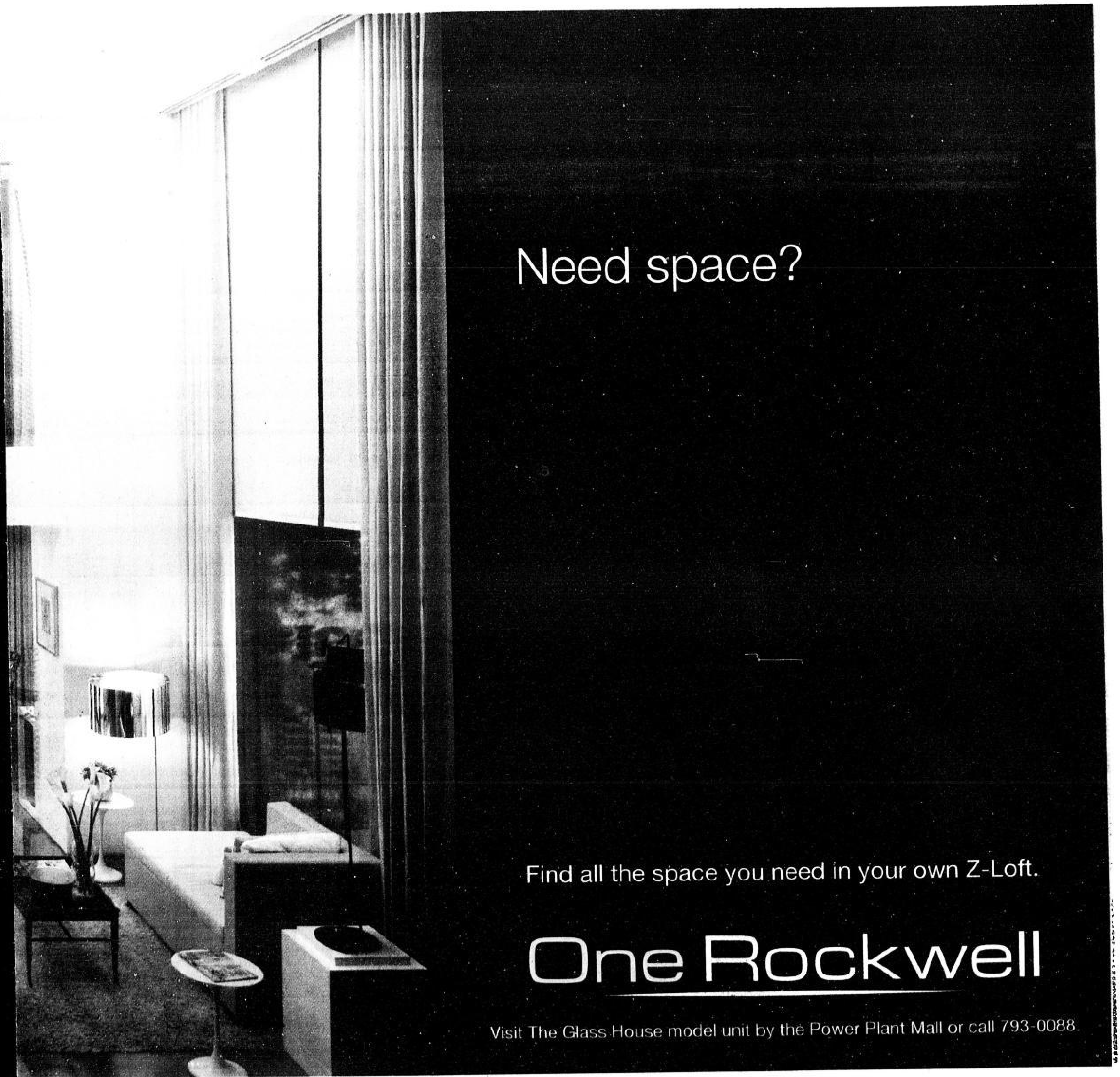
> *The uniquely designed East Tower showcases the innovation that One Rockwell adheres to*

The two towers of One Rockwell are a study in contrast indeed, rousing the interest of local and US-based buyers. "More than 80% of One Rockwell has been sold as of first quarter of this year," said Val Soliven, Rockwell Vice President for Sales and Marketing.

The project is slated for completion in 2010. This signature project is definitely going to make Rockwell Center a truly spectacular address. To find out more about living in your own villa in the sky at One Rockwell, call 793-0088.



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# OPINION

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## Crime rising

**EDITORIAL**

THE OWNER OF THE MINDANAO BUS COMPANY bombed three times in the last two weeks believes a Maguindanao-based gang of extortionists is behind the violence.

"It is the 'Alkobar' [gang] that has been extorting and threatening me. They were asking for P2.5 million before they set off the bomb in that bus in Bansalan," said Bernardino Baldevieso, owner of Weena Bus.

That bomb in Bansalan, Davao del Sur was the deadliest; when it went off last Friday, it killed eight persons and wounded at least 18 others. On the same day, another bomb ripped through another Weena bus, this time in Cotabato City. No one was hurt, but the bus was wrecked. On June 8, a bomb struck a parked Weena bus in Matalam, North Cotabato, killing one person and injuring at least eight others.

All told, said Abelardo Gamilla, the bus company's operations manager in Davao City, at least 17 Weena buses have been hit in bomb attacks since 2002. Every single one was the work of extortionists, he added.

We should brace ourselves for more attacks, simply because, as another member of the family that owns the company said, "it's company policy not to give in to extortionists' demands."

The company's firm stance is impressive; we worry for their passengers' safety, and of course for the lives of their staff too, but we do realize that not surrendering to the extortionists is by far the harder decision to make.

We worry even more, however, that the Armed Forces is so fixated on theory it cannot focus on the facts. After last Friday's two bombings, a military spokesman immediately blamed Moro rebels allegedly affiliated with the Jemaah Islamiyah for the attacks.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang of the Eastern Mindanao Command said a group headed by a certain Commander Abubakar, allegedly a "lost command" of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front with ties to JI, was involved in the attacks. It was extortion, Cabangbang said, but "the money is being used for terror."

He could, of course, be right. But jumping to conclusions does not exactly inspire confidence in his reasoning. Besides, the American bomb experts who are based at the Cotabato City headquarters of the Army's 6th Infantry Division have already investigated the Matalam bombing; in their view, that attack did not have the JI signature. In the first place, the bomb-making was amateurish, they said. Add to that Cabangbang's failure to include all the other attacks on Weena buses since 2002, and we end up expressing doubt, not certainty, about his conclusion.

Chief Supt. Conrado Laza, deputy police director for Southern Mindanao, took the better, more prudent approach. "Unless our bomb experts establish the type of bomb used, we cannot link the attack to any group yet," he said.

Aside from fund-raising for terrorism, what other possible motives are there?

Maybe, just maybe, defeated politicians are trying to recover their campaign expenses. This shouldn't come as a surprise; the link between organized crime and political ambition is in some parts of the country as solid as a ball and chain. Think of *jueteng*, which came back with a vengeance in some provinces in Luzon sometime last year, when it finally became clear that the May 14 midterm elections were pushing through. Or think of kidnap-for-ransom gangs, which go on a spree in the months immediately preceding an official campaign period.

Maybe the attacks are related to the slow-moving peace negotiations between the government and the MILF. One party could be trying to jump-start the talks, while another could be trying to drain the battery.

Or, maybe, crime is really "back to normal," after the elections. While the official election period has a few more days to run, security forces in most parts of the country have already started to lower their alert levels. This creates an opening for criminal groups which may have lain low during the campaign.

Whatever the reasons, it is incumbent on the police to provide security escorts (perhaps serving as on-board marshals) for Weena Bus; it is crucial that the AFP track down and contain Abubakar's lost command; it is important that police bomb experts in close consultation with the US bomb unit in Cotabato City determine the make and provenance of the two other bombs; not least, it is critical that the most important lead available, the naming of the Alkobar gang, be followed boldly and resolutely.

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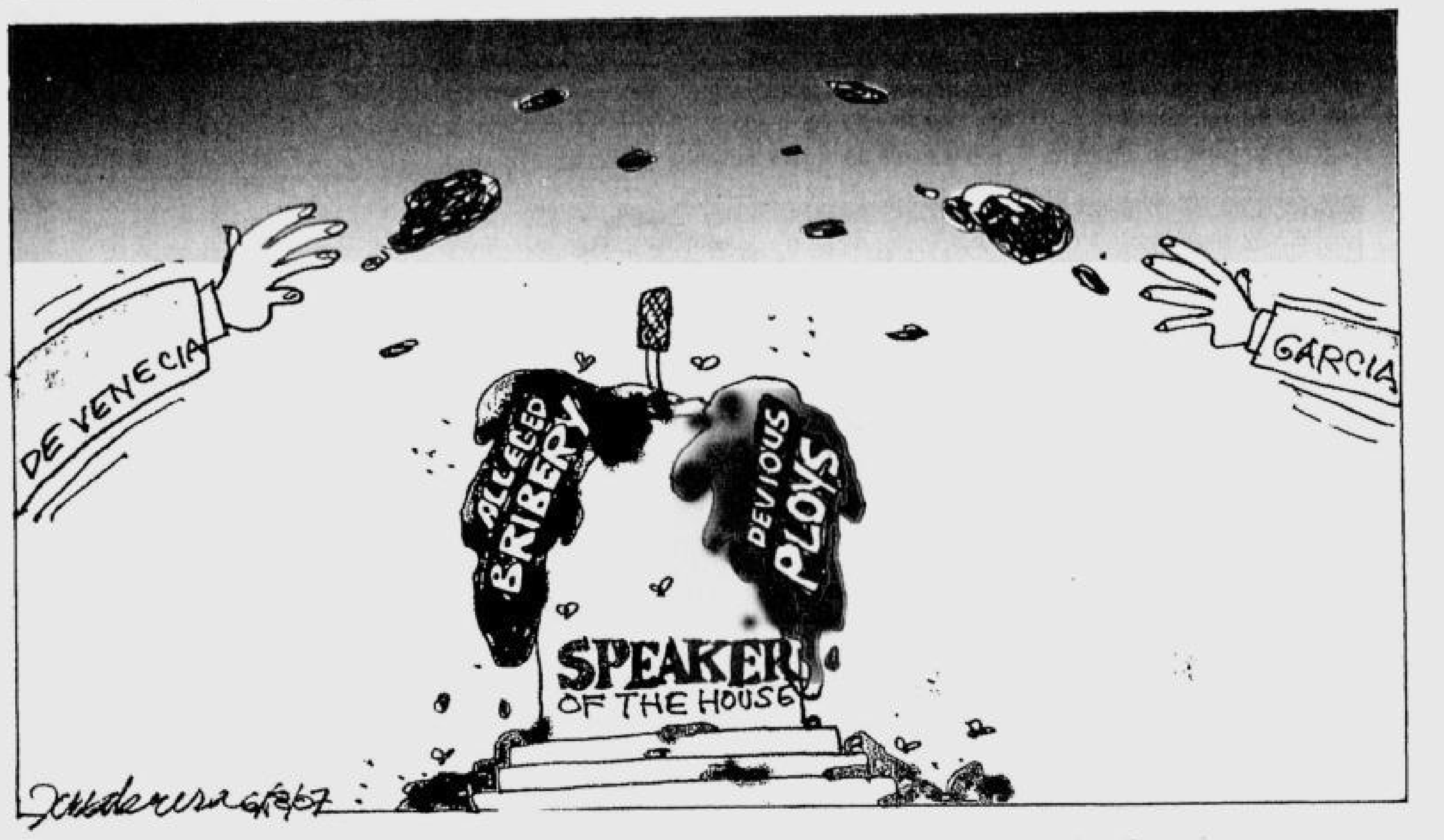


## GMA is cause of Team Unity's defeat

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

THE FIRINGS IN THE CABINET, GOVERNMENT-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions are President Macapagal-Arroyo's answer to the rout of her Team Unity's senatorial candidates. Heads will roll because all but two of her bets lost. Somebody has to pay for the humiliation. There has to be a scapegoat.

But isn't GMA the one person to blame for the rout? She it is who has the kiss of death. All those who were close to her, or been identified with her, lost. The two TU candidates who won, Ed Angara and Joker Arroyo, were not identified with her. They have had images of independence. They were recruited into the TU slate only because GMA could not convince enough of her close allies to run. These allies were smart enough to know that their chances of winning were slim.

Even the popular movie actors, whom many thought were sure winners, lost. The two *balimbings* of the opposition, Tito Sotto and Tessie Aquino-Oreta, were hastily recruited into the TU ticket when the Genuine Opposition did not include them in its own ticket. They lost resoundingly.

Let's face it, the senatorial election was a referendum on GMA's administration and the people told her clearly what they thought of her. The victory of two soldiers who rebelled against her—Gringo Honasan, who ran as an independent, and Antonio Trillanes (who would have thought he would win?)—is a slap in her face. Both of them were not able to campaign as much as the others because they were in prison. Honasan had only a couple of weeks left to campaign when the courts allowed him to post bail. Trillanes was never allowed bail. Yet they won. The people voted for them because they wanted to overthrow the GMA administration.

Yes, it was GMA herself who was the cause of TU's overwhelming defeat. But she will never admit that. She has to have a scapegoat.

Besides, after every election, there are many jobseekers—candidates who lost, politicians who helped in the campaign, financial contributors. The President has to give jobs to her loyal allies so they will remain allies. And so she has to create vacancies in the government.

* * *

The most sought-after positions in the government are those in the corporations with the most money: the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, and the fattest cash cow of them all, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), besides of course the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. The fact that there are many applicants for these offices who offer to work even without pay reveals why they want jobs there.

No wonder the first names mentioned as candidates for the chopping block were the heads of the BIR and the BOC. There are just too many powerful people salivating for their positions.

The President would be justified in kicking out the "non-performing asses" in her government—and there are many in her Cabinet and the GOCCs. But how can she have the heart to relieve the heads of the three most efficient money producers in her administration—the GSIS, SSS and Pagcor?

The GSIS, for example, not only has doubled its assets but is also headed by a son of Cebu, the province that gave GMA landslide victories in the last two elections; the son, in fact, of her own party's candidate for the speakership.

The SSS, too, is healthy after the last two administrations almost ran it to the ground.

And Pagcor is one of the most profitable corporations in the country today. In fact, just a few years ago, it surpassed the performance of private giants such as Mirant and Globe Telecom. It topped the list of biggest moneymakers in the country, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2002, and consistently remains in the Top 20 until now. It is the biggest source of non-tax revenues for the government.

Look at these figures: Last year, Pagcor beat all its previous records by earning P25.4 billion in total annual income and breaking monthly income records eight times. Last May, it earned a total of P2.05 billion in winnings, beating the highest-ever record set in August 2006. No wonder so many people are lusting after it and Pagcor chief Efraim Genuino has been mentioned as one of those who will probably get the ax.

But Genuino, like the heads of the GSIS and the SSS, is one of the few performing assets in the GMA administration. According to records, since he became chair in 2001, Genuino has been able to steer the corporation toward remarkable growth, starting with a phenomenal 17 percent leap in income in his first year of office. Reforms such as a scientific style of management, stringent cost-cutting and strategic marketing are said to be among the things that Genuino introduced in the corporation.

He also looked into the working conditions of his employees and increased their salaries and package of benefits. Now they say that Pagcor employees are among "the happiest people in government." Is that true?

* * *

How privileged this Ruffa Gutierrez is. The Philippine National Police just gave her three police bodyguards (against her husband who is not even here and who has a standing order not to be admitted into the country) at a time when the PNP cannot provide enough policemen to protect the rest of the Filipinos.

"We are ready to die for her," said a ranking police officer. Wow! But isn't Ruffa and her family earning more than enough to hire their own security guards instead of making taxpayers pay for them? Besides, her problem is of her own making for having two husbands at the same time.

## Stop it

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

THE GALL OF THESE PEOPLE!

Only a couple of weeks ago, Benjamin Abalos was saying the exact opposite. He said the Maguindanao elections were a failure and he wanted special elections there. Commissioner Resurreccion Borra of course offered a loophole by saying that wasn't the official position, that was just the chairman's opinion.

That loophole has proven to be an entire s—t hole. The votes in Maguindanao, such as they may be dignified with that word, will be recognized after all. "All the evidence presented to us," Abalos now says, "showed that there was no failure of elections in Maguindanao. It appeared that all the winning local candidates, from the governor to the councilors, have been proclaimed based on the results in the municipal certificates of canvass."

Paul was stricken with light on the way to Tarsus, Abalos was stricken with blindness on the way to Malacañang. Paul is now called a saint; Abalos, well, feel free to call him names.

The "winning" local candidates have already been ordered proclaimed? Then rescind the blasted order. That order to begin with came from Lintang Bedol, the provincial board of canvassers chair. Bedol has no business ordering anything, not even coffee from a wayside eatery. By all rights he should be ordered to appear in the Senate and made to show where he learned to count—and that school padlocked forever.

Is this unfair to the local candidates who have already been declared winners? Not at all. Not if the declaration is premised on the most atrocious wrongdoing. They should not be rewarded, they should be punished. Postponement, or indeed cancellation, of their assumption to office is the least of those punishments.

Of course there was a failure of elections in Maguindanao. It's as clear as a failure of erection in an impotent man, or an impotent Comelec. A voting population of more than 333,000 that cannot give a single vote to 19 out of 37 senatorial candidates may not even qualify for Guinness or Ripley's. Guinness admits only fantastic records, not satanic miracles, and Ripley's "Believe it or not" is stacked in favor of believe it, not not. As to Prospero Pichay and the rest of the TU 12 having a more exclusionary and fanatical following in Maguindanao than "Wowowee," that is a joke where the joker should be telling only fellow inmates in Muntinlupa. They can laugh their hearts out there, such as they have hearts.

But forget statistics, just trust your eyes. The cheating wasn't just done brazenly, it was done right in front of TV cameras. Talk of in-your-face. You believe in Bedol, you might as well believe in Garci.

The solution is simple: Disregard the votes for senator in Maguindanao and hold special elections for the local positions. The senatorial vote cannot be affected other than by a wowowee showing that Bukinon's Migz Zubiri is absolutely worshipped in Maguindanao and Cagayan de Oro's Koko Pimentel is abjectly disliked there.

Is that unfair to the local candidates who won without cheating? Possibly, but that is like the nursing exams. You have cheating in part, you have cheating in whole. You have to void the whole. I repeatedly said then that the attempt to graduate those who passed the non-leaked parts would go for naught. It did go for naught, when the US authorities tasked with giving working visas to nurses abroad refused to give visas to our new nurses. A compromise based on wrongdoing doesn't work. Of course we have someone who did not win the election serving as president today. But that only clinches my argument: Those things do not work.

The only recourse the aggrieved have is to run after the criminals, or those who made the cheating possible. But there's the rub. To this day, those who leaked the nursing exams have not been found, let alone punished. And to this day, those who cheated in 2004 have not been jailed, they have been promoted.

It's high time we demanded retribution. No, more than that, it's high time we demanded an end to cheating. It's high time we said enough, these things may not just be "the way things are in Maguindanao," these things may not just be "the way things are in this country" we can't do a thing about them. It's high time we shouted with voices loud enough to wake heaven. We are human beings, not to speak of citizens of a democratic country; we refuse to be flogged like cattle.

We owe it above all to Musa Dimasidsing.

That is where the gall of Abalos and company oppresses most. To not declare the elections in Mindanao a failure is to declare Dimasidsing a failure. It is to add insult to injury. It is to spit on his ashes, or curse his memory. It is to say that this simple and honest man, whose feet Abalos and Borra and Bedol may not kiss lest they profane them with their corrosive saliva, died for nothing. It is to tell his wife and children that their husband and father did not live up to the teachings of Islam, in Islam right is wrong and wrong is right, tyranny is good and decency a blight, he was an idiot for not thinking of family first before honor, he was an imbecile for thinking he could change the world by exposing iniquity.

No, I wasn't being facetious or hyperbolic when I said last week that the Comelec should be changed into the Musa Dimasidsing Election Office. I meant it perfectly literally, if only to remind anyone who has anything remotely to do with it of the ideals this great man stood for. That is the first bill Koko Pimentel should file in the Senate. Meanwhile, let us take to the streets, let us take to the pulpits, let us take to mosques and on pew or prayer mat, on knees or on toes, shout for all the world to hear: Enough of the cheating, enough of the bullying, enough of the charlatanism.

Stop this revolting spectacle. Or face a revolt.

# Vote price

**COMMENTARY**

*Cielito C. Goño*
*John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues*

WHENEVER I MEET PEOPLE WHO VOTED IN rural areas last May 14, and if they are friendly enough, I fire away. I ask how much they were offered for their votes or their attendance in rallies. I ask whether they accepted the money, and whether they voted for whoever was supposed to have "donated" the money.

I listed their answers, and here is a summary of their stories of vote-buying in 12 rural municipalities.

Reported going rates from municipal council candidates were at P20, P50 or P100 per head, depending on the province.

Votes for mayor went for P200, P300 or P500 in different municipalities. One said that candidates for mayor in smaller towns in her province gave as much as P1,000 and P1,500 per voter.

In one town, people reportedly got P300 to attend a rally for a candidate for mayor, and another P300 on voting day. His rival gave no money for presence in rallies, but distributed P300 for votes and poll watching services.

People in one province allegedly received P700 to vote for a candidate for governor. In another, a contender for governor gave only P200. In yet another, the runner distributed "only P50 each, because he had no real competition and was confident to win anyway."

Votes for congressman were sought allegedly for P200 by a candidate in one district, her less wealthy opponent distributing only P50 per person. In another district, each household was reportedly given P1,000 or more for their votes.

Assume for the sake of argument that these data points are correct. At these rates, a candidate for municipal council, the lowest position at stake, who needed, say, 10,000 additional votes to win in a poor town, required at least P200,000, in 20-peso bills.

He would have had other expenses (transportation, poll watchers' allowances, etc.) that would easily bloat a decent campaign budget to P500,000. This amount would have merely put him in the game, not ensured his win.

At the other end of the spectrum, the vote-buying budget for a seat in Congress, the highest local position at stake, is also possible to loosely estimate, assuming these stories are true. A contender who sought 100,000 votes at P200 each, for example, would have needed P20 million for cash hand-outs alone.

Candidates can never be sure whether those who received money from them actually voted for them. In fact, I know this is not a scientific sample, but none of my storytellers voted for candidates whose money they received. It is therefore interesting why vote-buying persists, despite this moral hazard.

It helps to untangle the mixed determinants of the price of a vote in rural Philippines. On both the supply side and the demand side of the vote-cash exchange, the incentive structure is pertinent.

On the vote supply side, poverty could be the prime incentive generator, because it induces people to sell the ballot. Poverty affects the price of a vote, by making a supply of votes available for purchase in the first place.

The stories I gathered suggest that vote price can be higher in first- and second-class municipalities than in more impoverished fifth-class municipalities. This is understandable, if one thinks that it would take less money to have someone destitute vote a certain way, while more would be needed to sway people of less economic desperation. If this is true, then ending poverty will also end vote-buying.

On the demand side, there are other drivers. Regardless of the class of municipality, prices for votes tend to shoot up when the contest is close between two rivals, and were very low where candidates were unopposed or sure to win.

Even when sure to win, a new candidate reportedly still distributed cash during the campaign, just for the sake of becoming better known, and because he thought it would enhance the outcome. People expected that the pay would have been higher, though, had there been a threatening rival.

In one municipality, a candidate for Congress allegedly did not bother to distribute money, "because she knew no one would vote for her here."

These accounts suggest that high or low certainty of victory, or of loss, can affect a candidate's buying price.

The power of incentives is also apparent in stories of candidates who ran on idealism, intending to pursue reforms toward poverty alleviation. For example, a candidate for municipal council hoped to promote true change, but knew he would lose if he did not hand out 20-peso bills as his opponents did. The penalty for not playing by the rules is extreme. Thus, he ended up being sucked into the game, distributing money for votes himself.

The rules are such that even the most upright people could engage in vote-buying. It is therefore simplistic to think of this as the behavior only of crooked politicians.

Although the incentive structure is powerful, the exchange between vote seller and buyer is not a purely economic transaction. A candidate who expected to win still sprayed cash around, for example, because he or she was trying to satisfy people's expectations. These were expectations that have been set in a long series of past elections in which cash pay-offs were made for votes.

Vote price is therefore also embedded in the wider socio-cultural framework and in history. Economic factors, the socio-cultural milieu and the thread of history combine to reinforce the rules, institutionalizing the practice of vote-buying and influencing the price of votes.

# The art of the possible in Latin America

**WORLD VIEW**

*Bjorn Lomborg*

SHORTLY AFTER HE WAS ELECTED URUGUAY'S first Left-leaning president, Tabaré Vázquez declared that, "We have to reconstruct the future from the limitations of our own times."

Reconstruction and transformation are occurring across Latin America. A "pink tide" has brought politicians like Vázquez to center stage, posing a challenge for North America and Europe. Reform and high commodity prices are buoying the region. Latin America's economies are doing better now than they have in a long time.

But reconstruction doesn't happen overnight. The "limitations" that Vázquez spoke of are vast. Latin America is still far from being able to compete with the might of China or India. And it continues to have the widest gap between rich and poor. The richest 10 percent of its people earn nearly half the total income, while the poorest 10 percent earn just 1.6 percent. In contrast, the top tenth in industrialized countries earn 29.1 percent of total income, while those in the bottom tenth earn 2.5 percent.

Across Latin America and the Caribbean, one in four people survives on less than $2 a day. Fifty million—equivalent to the entire population of the United Kingdom—cope on less than $1. Moreover, 14 percent of the region's inhabitants lack enough income to afford basic health care. Perceptions of corruption and inefficiency are high, underpinning weak public trust in institutions, while infrastructure investment has recently declined sharply.

Although Latin America has the will to solve its massive challenges, it lacks the resources to solve everything at once. So it is important to get an overview of how Latin America's scarce financial resources would be used most effectively.

This October, together with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Copenhagen Consensus Center will host a conference—the Consulta de San Jose—that will look at what can be done throughout the continent.

Of course, the region has seen many such well-meaning conferences. But this one will answer a concrete question: if Latin America had, say, an extra $10 billion to spend over the next five years on improving welfare, which projects would bring the greatest benefits? How much could be achieved if additional funds were spent on education, on making public administration more efficient, or on combating violence and crime?

The Consulta de San Jose will carefully examine these and other issues, ranging from health care to the future of the region's environment. A team of 20 regional specialist economic experts drawn from Latin America and elsewhere will weigh up options and carefully consider the costs and benefits of the identified solutions.

The team consists of eminent academics, including economist and Chilean finance minister Andrés Velasco, United Nations Under-Secretary General José Antonio Ocampo, Harvard University professor and former Venezuelan Central Bank board member Ricardo Hausmann, and Nancy Birdsall, president of the Center for Global Development.

In closed sessions, the panel will create a prioritized list of the most promising solutions. To draw in community participation and involve the region's future leaders, students from one of the top business schools in the region will weigh in. They will listen to the same experts on corruption, schooling, health and the environment, but will bring the perspective of youth to their deliberations.

Currently, Latin American policymakers and aid organizations spend money without the guidance of a coherent, explicit set of options. As a result, they don't know whether their resources help the most people possible. This conference underscores the region's desire to be self-sufficient. It will draw attention to the problems facing Latin America but, more importantly, it will draw attention to their solutions, while allowing decision-makers to focus on spending money on projects that do the most good.

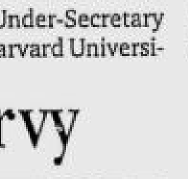
Latin America is undergoing an exciting transformation. The Consulta de San Jose may be able to help it construct a future with fewer limitations.

*Project Syndicate*

*Bjorn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, adjunct professor at Copenhagen Business School and editor of the new book "How to spend $50 billion to make the world a better place." Read more about Consulta de San José at www.iadb.org/res/consultaSanJose/index.cfm*

# Topsy turvy

**THE LONG VIEW**



*Manuel L. Quezon III*

JUST WHEN THE PRESIDENT FACES A MAJOR test—proving the first-quarter economic numbers will be reflected not just in the second quarter but also in the third and fourth quarters or in other words, the rest of this year—her economic team is in disarray. The President, you will recall, had announced that she expected her appointees to submit their resignations. In a press briefing, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President's instructions covered Cabinet members and the heads of 117 corporations and financial institutions owned or controlled by the government, prompting Amando Doronila to call the clearing of the decks "a political masterstroke in timing."

Except that the timing began to be bungled. Ermita's Wednesday statement was "clarified" on Friday by Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye: "Just to set the record straight, the President has indeed asked for the courtesy resignations of top officials of government-owned and -controlled corporations, including government financial institutions. However, any news purporting to expand the coverage of the order to include members of the Cabinet is totally inaccurate."

The "clarification" was apparently inspired by Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who said, "There is no directive for Cabinet members to hand over their resignations. The financial market might react to this badly. I sought the assistance of Executive Secretary Ermita to immediately issue clarification. Not that the Cabinet is against it. But there is no such directive. All this, the order to GOCC and GFI heads to resign, is to give the President a fresh mandate. She will have a continuing evaluation of performances of key officials."

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya was more circumspect: "we are still clarifying if there will be a directive" on resignations, he said on radio. Neda chief Romulo Neri said he wouldn't resign, Favila said he wouldn't quit because no one had been ordered to quit, while Energy Secretary Popo Lotilla sent out a memo: "As a show of full support and in order to give Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a free hand after the recent national and local elections to build a team that would back up her legacy of a strong republic and finish the programs and projects committed by the administration, kindly join me in submitting our resignations to the President by Monday, June 18th. Please inform the members of your respective boards accordingly," he wrote.

What's curious is that until Favila brought up market reactions to Cabinet resignations, speculation in the press over who's in and who's out focused on the political players: Ermita and Claudio were in one day, out the next, in again as of now, while everyone expects former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to get his just reward by means of a Cabinet portfolio. But perhaps Favila knew that it was only a matter of time before the markets would be faced with news that couldn't be discounted as being purely political.

Ricky Carandang says Finance Secretary Margarito Teves wants to quit, and will probably be replaced (Carandang says) by Favila. Teves himself told the media that his letter of resignation would be submitted to the Palace either today or tomorrow. Will he, or won't he, quit? It depends on whether he's willing to put up with more of the usual problems.

There was the problem of Executive Order 625, which ended up revoked and replaced with Executive Order 625-A. EO 625 had created the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Audit, Fraud and Investigation under a new assistant commissioner in the BIR, Cesar Lim, the South Makati revenue district collector. He would then have handled the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program of the BIR. Then came EO 625-A, which restored the status quo ante, administering the RATE program through the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Legal and Inspection of the BIR. Presumably this means Nestor Valeroso, the head of the BIR Large Taxpayers' Service, has his old duties back.

Alex Magno, normally not only sure of what the Palace is up to, but also of the wisdom of whatever the Palace does, was puzzled by the whole thing: there had been no official notice that the (as Magno called it) "unusual order" had been signed and issued; the "badly written order" hadn't even been solicited by the BIR; but instead came from "some discreet consultant's desk," making it quite possibly "testimony to the extent the workings of our bureaucracy may be influenced by powerbrokers." The release—or was it non-release, or merely rumors of its release?—of EO 625 had BIR chief Jose Buñag saying there was "something funny" about the executive issuance. Both he and Secretary Teves ended up in a huddle with the President—who countermanded her EO 625 and reversed it by means of EO 525-A.

Carandang's also of the opinion that Buñag is going, going, gone for a very interesting reason: "The fiscal sleight of hand that led to the impressive deficit figures last year aren't working anymore this year. Asking companies to pay their income taxes in advance may have gotten him some good numbers last year, but that left him with nothing to collect from them this quarter. He'll probably be given the boot after the May deficit figures are released."

If the Cabinet loses Teves, and its additions include more of the usual suspects like Atienza, it's a net loss and a loss of political momentum, too. Combined with other resignations, it doesn't send the sign of an administration poised to turn over a new leaf. When an anonymous official told the press that Silvestre Afable Jr. quit because "he was getting frustrated because he was not getting enough support from the President and from her security officials," and that "He felt there were some people in the Cabinet who were not serious in finding a lasting solution to the Muslim rebellion in the south," it was a signal that contrary to Doronila's excitement, the Palace is proving itself incorrigible.

# Senator Trillanes IV: random thoughts

**REVEILLE**

*Ramon J. Farolan*

FOUR YEARS AGO IN JULY 2003, SOME 320 OFFICERS and men took over the Oakwood apartment complex at the Ayala Center in Makati City. Calling themselves the Magdalo group, the officers, most of whom were members of PMA classes 1994 and 1995, called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her security officials while also airing their grievances against the military establishment. The Feliciano Commission report on the mutiny concluded that the actions of the group were aimed at taking over the government and establishing a 15-member governing council.

One of the leaders of the group was Navy Lt. Senior Grade (equivalent to an Army captain) Antonio F. Trillanes IV who also served as the group's spokesman.

Last Friday, Trillanes was officially proclaimed senator of the land by virtue of over 11 million votes cast by the Philippine electorate. Just two months short of his 36th birthday, Trillanes becomes the fourth graduate of the Philippine Military Academy to make it to the Philippine Senate. Ping Lacson and Greg Honasan belong to class 1971—the year Trillanes was born—while Rodolfo Biazon, the eldest of the group, is a member of class 1961. Trillanes is the son of Navy Captain Antonio F. Trillanes (deceased), also a graduate of the military academy, class of 1959.

At the PMA, Trillanes, class of 1995, excelled in math and the physical sciences. He graduated No. 4 in his class. On graduation day, he was given the coveted Tambuli award for outstanding communication skills, skills which he put to good use during the last few months.

The valedictorian of the class was Army captain Gerardo Gambala, a fellow coup plotter. Antonio Salgado Jr., now a PAL pilot, was the baron (First Captain of the cadet corps). Navy Lt. Christopher Magdangal won the Vice Presidential sabre as the No. 2 graduate.

Perhaps the real star of the Trillanes family is Capt. Arlene Orejana Trillanes, wife of the newly elected senator.

Arlene Trillanes is, like her husband, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, but of the class of 1997. Born in General Santos City, Arlene was with the first batch of women cadets admitted to the PMA in 1993 and graduated No. 9 in her class. She is also a rated paratrooper, having finished the basic airborne course at the Special Forces training facility in Fort Magsaysay. Arlene also undertook training in signal operations, communications and electronics and computer-related programs at the Army Management Information Center.

Mrs. Trillanes holds an AB degree in Psychology from the University of the Philippines and a Master's in Information Systems, also from the UP. She is now a member of the Corps of Professors at the PMA. For those not familiar with the military organization, the Corps of Professors is a separate but equal branch of service of the AFP just like the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Senator Trillanes won with over 11 million votes to his name—good enough for 11th place.

In terms of finances, his rivals particularly from the administration side were spending money like water. He had very limited financial support.

In terms of exposure, his rivals were on television, radio and the newspapers almost on a daily or weekly basis. He had limited publicity.

In terms of a political machinery, he had nothing.

In terms of the all-important poll watchers, he could not afford many; most likely he had none.

In terms of freedom to move about and campaign, he was confined in a detention center all of the time.

Yet this young fellow, relatively unknown, bested Goliaths like Mike Defensor, Prospero Pichay, Ralph Recto, Miguel Zubiri and others who were pillars of the administration.

What does this mean?

First, his victory represents the most serious indictment of the Arroyo administration. Not all the money and patronage in the world could buy enough votes for the Arroyo boys.

Second, his victory represents a pointed criticism of our justice system. Four years since Oakwood, the military and civilian justice systems have failed to resolve the charges against the Oakwood soldiers. The people, by their votes, have provided some clue as to their feelings on this matter. It is time for the military as well as the civilian courts to move swiftly in order to bring this issue to a close.

Third, our people are clamoring for new faces, not the tired, old ones that we see almost every election period. Antonio Trillanes represents just such a new face for an electorate that was fed up with "business as usual" in politics.

Fourth, there is some hope for the electoral process. But it requires sustained vigilance from citizen groups in order to frustrate "Garci"-type operations.

* * *

Farewell, Johnny. Last month, my flying school class marked its 50th anniversary with a reunion on the parade grounds of Fernando Air Base in Lipa City.

In a recent column, I mentioned that the instructor pilot who released me for my first solo flight was a Mustang fighter pilot, Capt. Johnny Estoesta.

Last week, Johnny Estoesta passed away after a long bout with a number of debilitating illnesses.

If ever there was an Air Force family, it was the Estoesta clan. Three of Johnny's sons, Lt. Col. John Estoesta, Lt. Col. Jess Estoesta and Maj. Joejet Estoesta joined the Air Force and are all pilots. Another son, James, is a civilian employee also with the PAF. His daughters married Air Force officers. Malorette, the eldest, married Capt. Jess Gascon, currently a dynamic entrepreneur. Maritess is married to Maj. Gen. Romeo Alamillo, the PAF vice commander, while the youngest, Marilou, is the wife of Col. Rene Samonte, Air Force personnel chief.

Johnny Estoesta was a member of the PAF Flying School class 52-A. Among his classmates were Angel Mapua, onetime head of the Blue Diamond acrobatic team and Fernando Ayubo, one of our instructors in Lipa City.

He will be remembered as one of the best.

**THEY SAID**

## A true master

"If I am given the chance to teach at the (University of the Philippines) Open University, I will gladly offer my services for free. I have a lot of free time in detention so I will just help if I can."

*—Navy Ensign Armand Pontejos, one of those charged for taking part in the failed Oakwood mutiny, said after getting his master's diploma in Information Systems from the UPOU*

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LETTERS

# Irresponsible policy

WE SHOULD THANK PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo for finally starting a serious discussion on poverty. What needs to be seriously discussed, too, is the population explosion in "developing countries" like the Philippines, which the Philippine government is unwilling to address.

Ironically, it was a Filipino, Rafael Salas, who was the first head of the United Nations Population Institute. He foresaw this problem of irresponsible population policy in developing countries and the inevitable rise in global migration more than 30 years ago.

Without a responsible population policy, countries like the Philippines would not have enough resources to feed its people. The only remaining option for the Philippines would be to send its daughters and sons overseas, as migrant workers.

**—SID GARBANZOS,**
**legal intern, Immigrant**
**and Refugee Rights Clinic,**
**CUNY School of Law,**
**65-21 Main St., Flushing, NY 11355**

# Cockfighting a hobby, not a game for bullies

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE LETTER OF Rebecca S. Walsh, an American citizen from Charlotte, North Carolina, USA. (INQUIRER, 5/31/07) She says cockfighting is for "bullies." Bully in my dictionary means a person coercing others by force, somebody who persecutes or oppresses by force or by threat. I vehemently disagree with her. I love cockfighting, though I am not a big bettor.

Allow me to take up the cudgels for my countrymen and fellow cockfighting aficionados. Cockfighting has been in our beloved country since time immemorial. It is already part of our Filipino culture. It runs in our blood.

Cockfighting is legal here. In fact, there are so many game fowl associations here—in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. Many people come here just to watch big derbies and enjoy it. Is it wrong to make people happy? Is it wrong to like cockfighting as a hobby, as I do? I bet Walsh herself has her own hobby.

**—DR. CHRISTIAN E. CANGCO,**
**Calaca, Batanes**

# Mind-conditioning is Reli's business

RELI GERMAN CANNOT TELL the INQUIRER what to say. (INQUIRER, 6/2/07)

What should vex him is how a malevolent administration put up a nuisance candidate against Alan Peter Cayetano the way the rightists trotted out another Sanchez to sabotage Bobbit's candidacy in 1987.

Reporting is not mind-conditioning. That is what Reli and we tried to do, after Ninoy Aquino was assassinated, in dealing with the press so that powerful government could be checked. Despite the legalisms of Marcos and his minions, it was the "mosquito press" which conditioned the minds of the people. It could not be that we should have waited for the legal process of Marcos to finish before speaking out.

Today's pro-administration mouthpieces and newspapers can try to condition any way they want and the people will decide. Indeed, Reli's business is to condition hearts and minds.

If anyone's wares remain unsold in the free competition in the marketplace of ideas, he can petition for bankruptcy.

**—RENE SAGUISAG,**
**4045 Bigasan St.,**
**Palanan, Makati City**

# MILF must make good on Bossi vow

IT IS GOOD TO HEAR THAT THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front is satisfied with the conduct of the peace negotiations. It is also heartening to hear the MILF's offer to help in locating and releasing Catholic priest Giancarlo Bossi, who was kidnapped by a group identified with the Abu Sayyaf.

Nothing can be more disturbing than news stories about priests being kidnapped. With such stories, all the gains we have achieved especially in tourism can quickly come to naught.

The impact of Father Bossi's abduction was made worse because of the failure of the media to point out that it happened in an extremely remote town in Mindanao. In fact, the giant cable, TV and radio networks have not made any distinction between peaceful Davao and the kidnap site in Zamboanga Sibugay, two places that are about 600 miles from each other. By this failure, the media organizations are doing a disservice to Mindanao and the entire country.

We hope that the MILF will make good on its word about the rescue of Father Bossi and show the world that it does not countenance criminality. The MILF has to protect its image and credibility not only for its sake, but also for the sake of Muslim Mindanao which must cleanse itself of the "kidnap capital" tag. One act of mercy and courage by the MILF will be one positive story that can reverse the negative impact of the news about Father Bossi's abduction.

And it will also be a big step toward peace.

**—EDGAR PALMA,**
**Adpalma1960@yahoo.com**

# Automation only part of the answer

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE letter "How to end electoral anomalies" written by Jegie Tagle Pereda. (INQUIRER 5/26/07) The problem lies not only in the election proper (voting and counting of votes).

Days before election day or, simply and more precisely, during the campaign period, vote buying, harassment and election-related violence and anomalies are already taking place. So, even if the voting and counting of votes in the next election would finally be automated, there will still be election-related shenanigans.

But I do agree that the next elections should be fully automated. But what if in the next elections the same obsolete system we have today would still be used? Is the idea of a boycott the real last option for the sovereign Filipino people?

In this year's elections, Filipinos showed some sense of political maturity. I therefore think that they will not wait for the next elections before they do their part in ensuring a clean, honest and credible vote in 2010.

**—KRIS SUNGA,**
**76 Katihan St., Poblacion,**
**Muntinlupa City**

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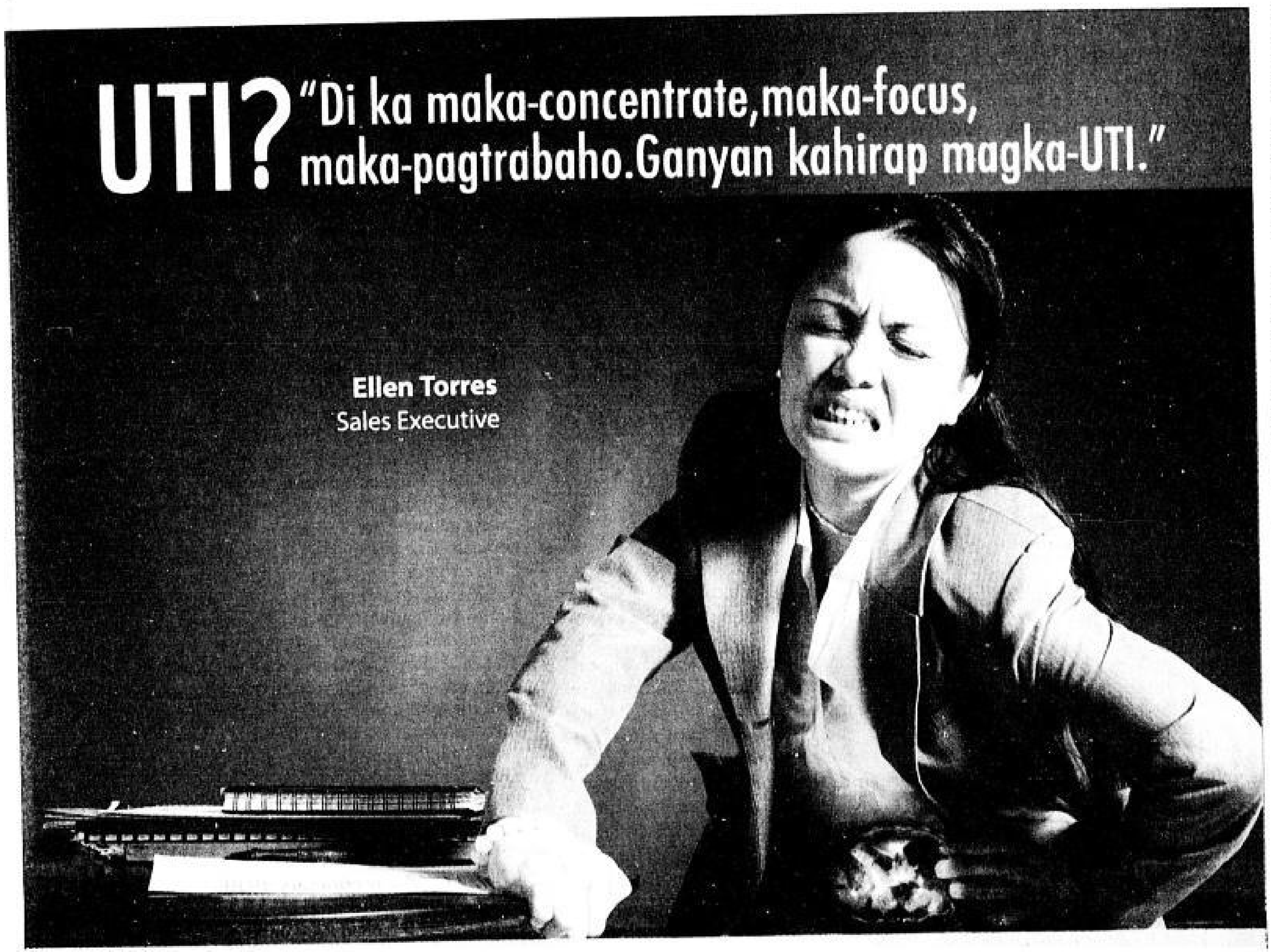
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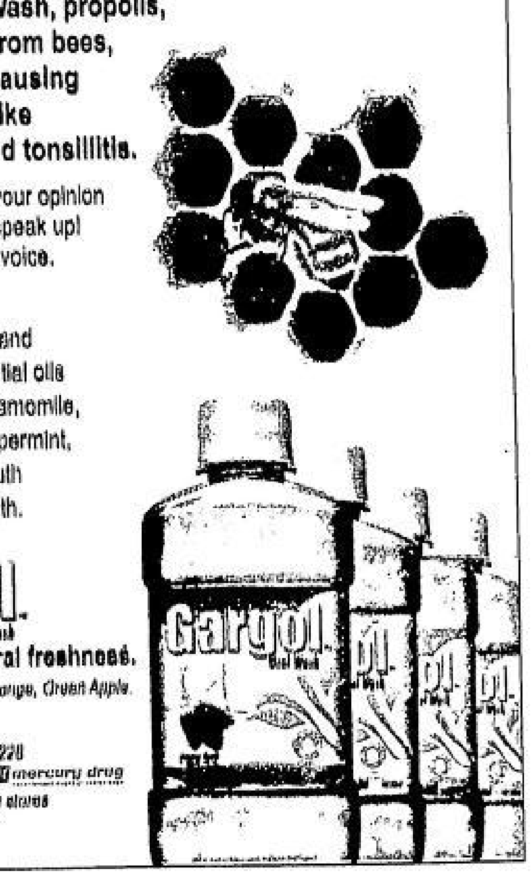

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# MILF wary of priest as chief negotiator

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) said it was wary about an outsider taking over the role of the government's chief negotiator.

Jun Mantawil, head of the MILF peace panel secretariat, said the group respected Fr. Eliseo Mercado Jr.'s ability but it was not sure if he would be given full authority to negotiate.

"The MILF leadership has the highest respect for Father Eliseo Mercado Jr. as a person, friend and as a priest but he does not possess the authority that a Cabinet member possesses," he said.

Mercado, former president of Notre Dame University here, was named the new government chief negotiator following the resignation of Secretary Silvestre Afable from the talks.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief peace negotiator, called Afable's resignation as a "setback," saying that "changing horses in the middle of the stream' was a dangerous decision."

Mercado said he welcomed his appointment and that he believed that he could contribute to efforts aimed at resolving the decades-old Bangsamoro problem.

But Mantawil said the negotiation was a clear-cut "state matter," a "highly partisan" activity that "churchmen should not involve themselves in."

He said the appointment of Mercado, a government outsider, was a "deliberate downgrading of the peace process."

Peace adviser Jesus Dureza said Mercado, as an experienced peace builder, would bring about "a seamless transition" in the changing of the guard in the government panel in the Malaysia-brokered talks scheduled to resume sometime in July.

"The assumption of Father Mercado as the new panel chair will ensure … a continuity in government efforts to move forward the peace process with the MILF," Dureza said.

But Mantawil said appointing a government outsider would also make the Malaysian facilitator uncomfortable.

"Datuk Othman bin Abdu' Razak, the chief facilitator of the GRP-MILF peace talks, is of Cabinet rank being a special adviser to the Prime Minister of Malaysia," Mantawil pointed out.

"There is protocol in the negotiation that all the parties, especially the state actors, must follow," he said.

Mantawil pointed out that the peace talks between the government and MILF might be on the final stretch but the remaining issues were substantive ones that could potentially stall the process.

Mercado said there was nothing to fear because "the question of peace is paramount."

He said his experience in peace-building efforts could help him in heading the government panel.

"It's a huge challenge but I know I can be of help," he said.

Fr. Ramon Bernabe, superior of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Mercado's religious order, said he hoped the priest would get the support of various stakeholders in the Mindanao peace process.

"I believe he can contribute in efforts to achieve peace in our land," Bernabe said.

Mercado was a member of the government panel that negotiated peace with the Nur Misuari-led Moro National Liberation Front. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Germelina A. Lacorte with a report from Aquiles Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Leyte bets told: Declare expenses

**By Joey A. Gabieta**
*Inquirer Visayas*

TACLOBAN CITY—The Commission on Elections in Leyte has called on candidates who ran in the May 14 elections to submit their statements of expenditures or face sanctions.

Based on the records of Comelec-Leyte, only 21 of the 40 candidates have filed their statements of expenses.

Among those who have yet to file statement of expenditures was reelected Gov. Jericho Petilla.

Petilla and the other candidates have 30 days after June 13 to file their statements of expenditures, according to lawyer Andrew Bido, Leyte's election officer.

The deadline for submission of the statements of expenditures was June 13.

Bido said failure to file the statement was punishable with fines or jail terms or disqualification from public office.

Comelec records said among the candidates, the one who spent the most was Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who won as congressman of the first district. Romualdez declared that he spent at least P600,000 for the campaign.

The other congressional candidates who submitted their statements of expenditures were reelected Representatives Trinidad Apostol (2nd dist), P472,114; and Carmen Cari (5th dist), P214,000; and newly elected congressman Andres Salvacion (3rd dist), P286,158.

Only reelected Rep. Eufrocino Codilla Sr. (4th dist) has yet to file his statement of expenditures.

# 70-yr-old lawyer slain near his office

CALAMBA CITY—A 70-YEAR-OLD lawyer was gunned down by two bonnet-wearing men on a motorcycle in front of his law office in Barangay Poblacion, this city, on Saturday night, police said.

Supt. Roland Bustos, city police chief, said Demetrio Hilbero, 70, of Barangay Real in this city, was about to open the gate of his law office near the public market at around 7:45 p.m. when the assailants came and shot him several times at close range.

Concerned residents rushed the lawyer to the Calamba Medical Center where he later died.

Police said a .45 cal. pistol could have been used in the killing.

Bustos said the victim and his wife, Estela, had just attended Mass at the nearby St. John the Baptist Church before the attack.

He said Estela was still in a state of shock.

The lawyer might have been killed as a result of cases he was handling.

Bustos said police would review the cases that Hilbero was handling to find leads in the investigation. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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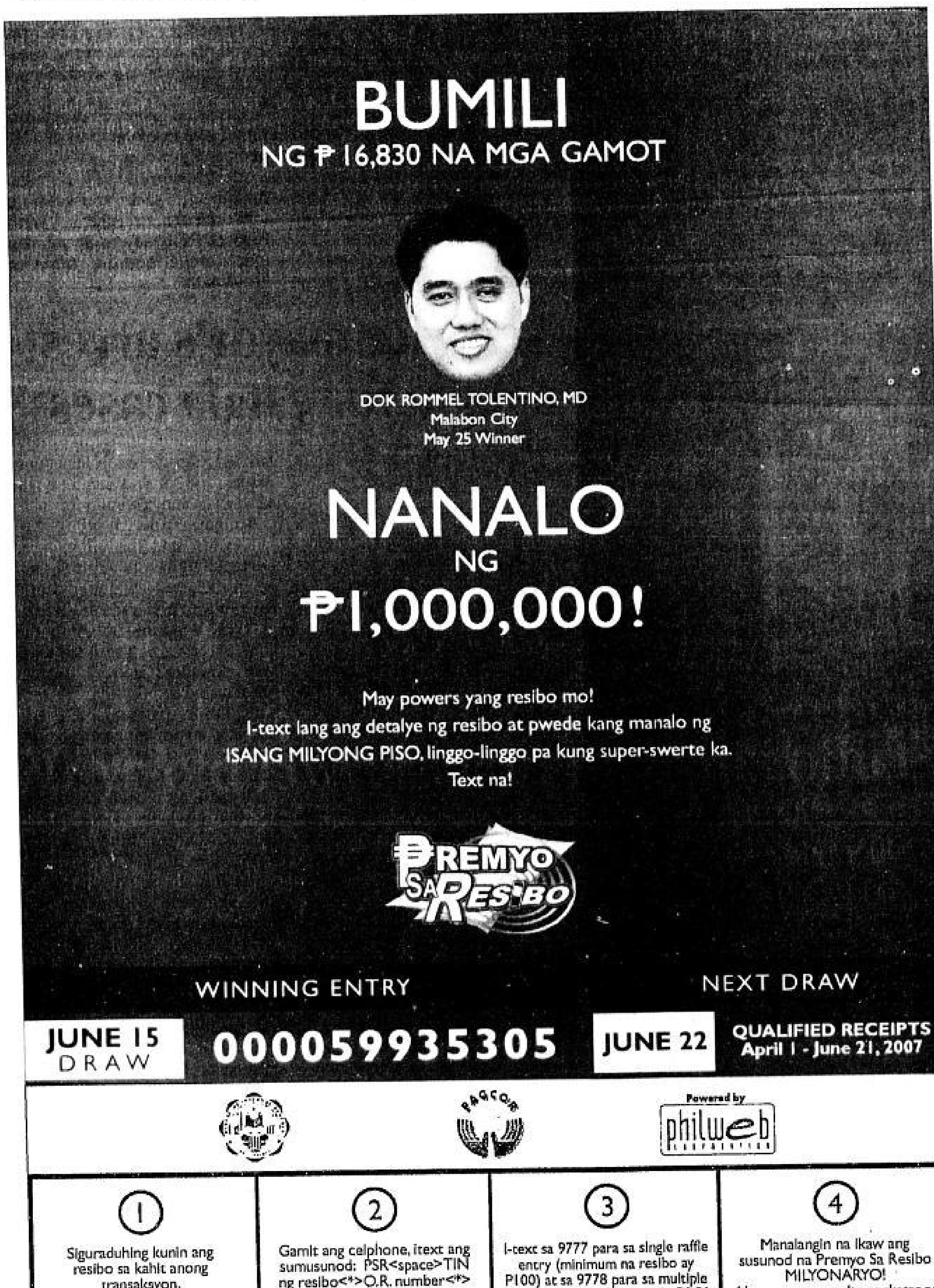
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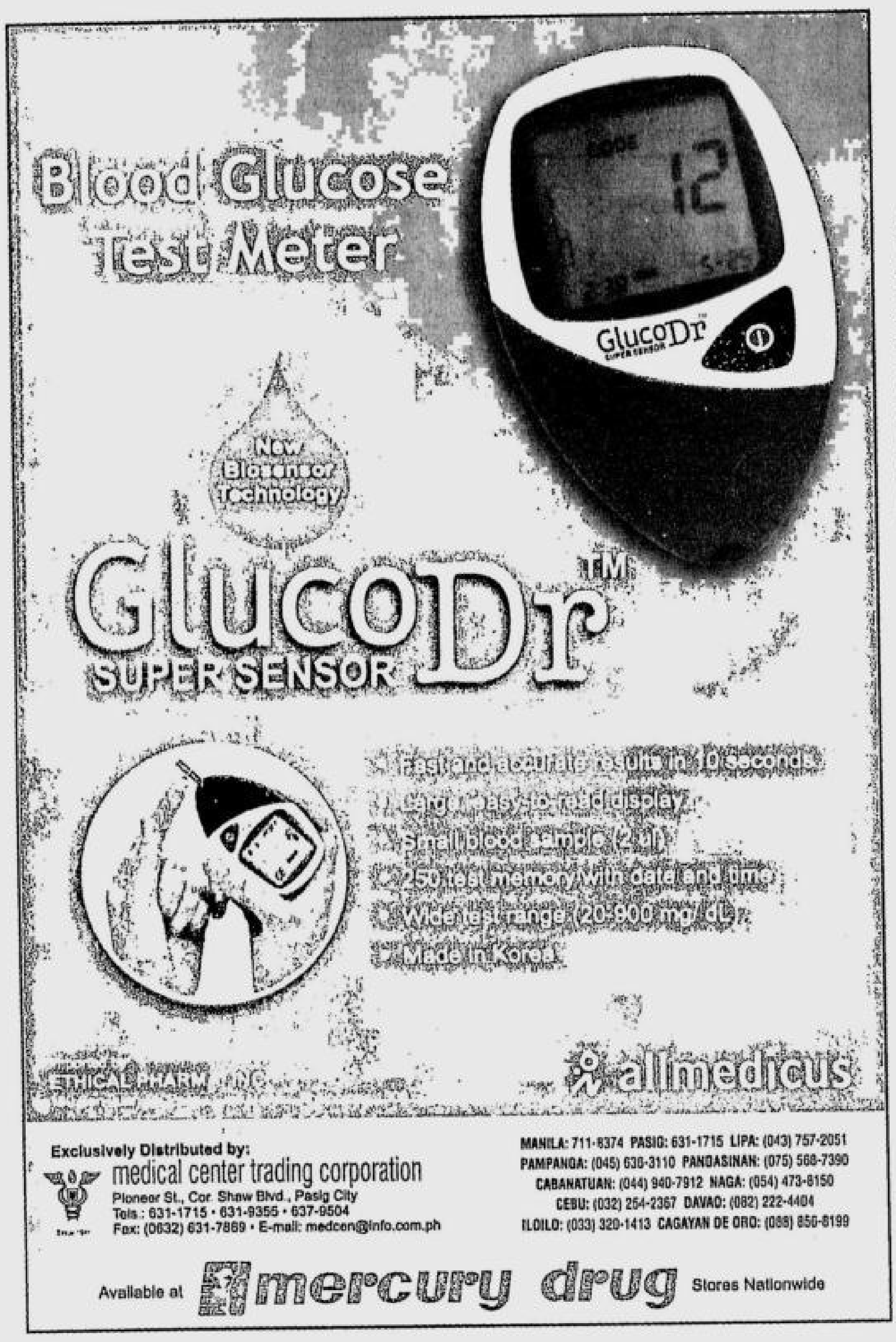

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**ART WORK** This item is one of dozens of works done in clay that are sold in a number of shops along the highway in Bansalan, Davao del Sur. The area is starting to find a new identity as a center for clay pottery. DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

# Wave of bombings forces company to stop bus trips

**By Orlando Dinoy**
*Inquirer Mindanao*

BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR—The management of Weena Bus Co. has decided to temporarily cease operations following the wave of bomb attacks that targeted its buses, a company official said yesterday.

The latest were the bomb explosions aboard Weena Bus No. 1104 here and an air-conditioned bus in Cotabato City that killed eight and injured 16 others on Friday.

The military has said rogue Moro rebels with links to the Jemaah Islamiyah were behind the attacks on Weena, but police said an investigation was still being conducted.

Abelardo Gamilla, Weena operations manager based in Davao City, said since 2002, at least 17 of their more than 200 buses were damaged in the bomb attacks, which he blamed on extortionists.

Gamilla said the firm decided to suspend operations to press authorities to adopt tighter security measures to protect not only their units but also the lives of passengers.

Weena, which is owned by the Valdevieso family, is the lone bus company that services the Davao-Cotabato route, one of the most important links among the central, northern and southern Mindanao regions.

The suspension of the bus company's operations was seen as a setback to economic activities in the regions.

Gamilla said the company were now talking with authorities for the adoption of more stringent security measures.

Chief Supt. Felizardo Serapio, Central Mindanao police director, said marshals were ready to be deployed when informed of the bus company's decision to suspend operations.

Although Bansalan is part of Southern Mindanao, the Central Mindanao police office was helping in the investigation because the suspects allegedly rode the bus from Kidapawan City in North Cotabato.

Senior Insp. Sherwin Butil, chief of the Bansalan police, said the results of the investigation on the make of the bomb that exploded here at around 6 p.m. on Friday had yet to be released.

At least six US bomb experts were helping their Filipino counterparts in trying to determine the composition of the bomb.

One of the bus passengers told the INQUIRER that the black backpack left by a male passenger shortly before the blast contained sand and ketchup containers.

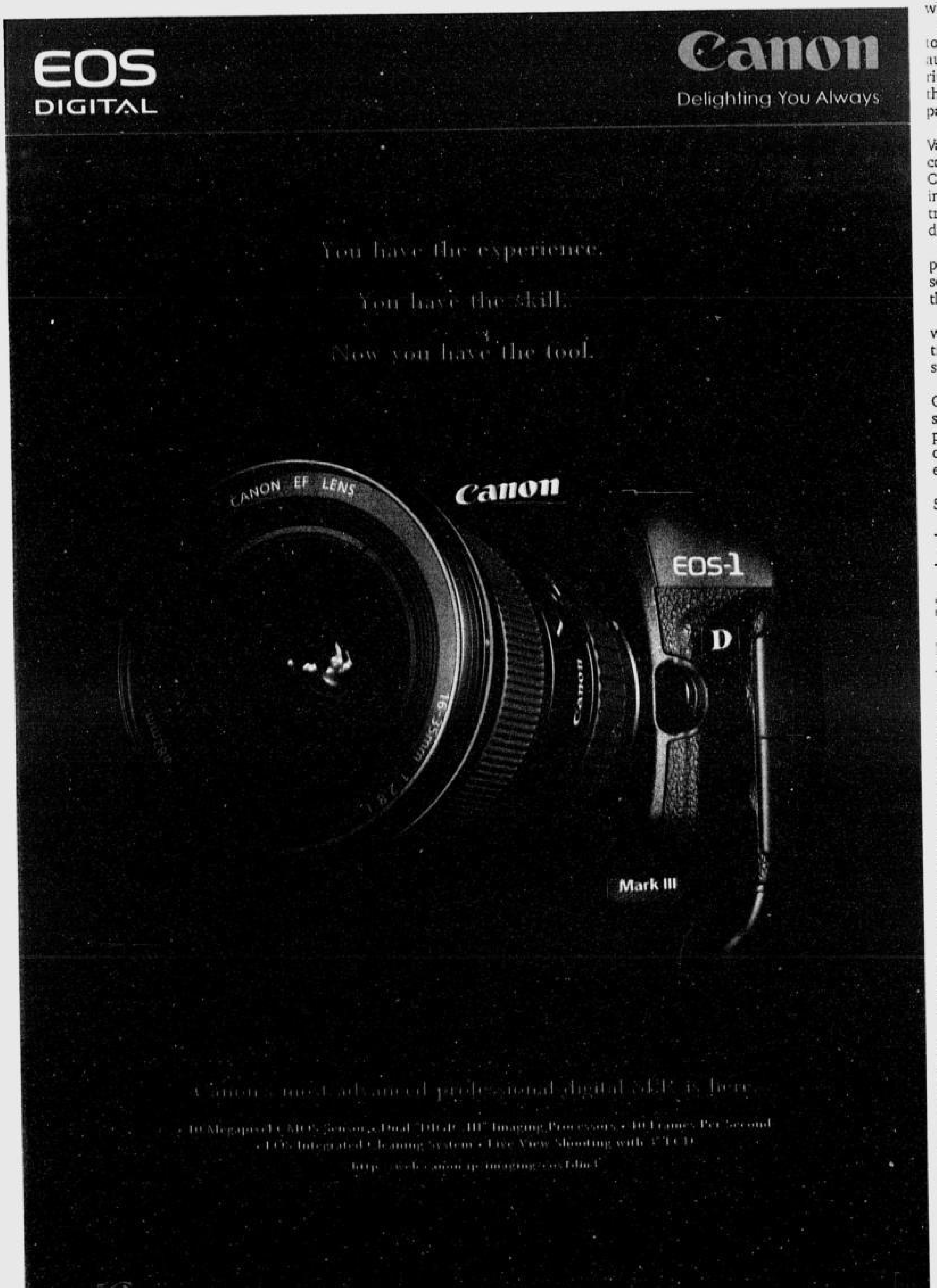
Butil said the exact make of the bomb could help them pinpoint the group behind the explosion.

A similar investigation of the June 8 explosion in Matalam, North Cotabato, which was conducted with the help of US bomb experts, established that extortionists, and not Islamic militants identified with the JI, were responsible.

The US experts described the bomb that exploded at the Matalam terminal as "the work of amateurs."

Based on police findings, the bomb was fashioned out of TNT and black powder.

Most bombs used by JI-linked militants in their attacks were made out of mortar shells. *With reports from Edwin Fernandez and Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*



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# New vice mayor's arrest sought for estafa cases

**By Gabriel Cardinoza**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

DAGUPAN CITY—A JUDGE HAS ordered the arrest of the newly elected vice mayor of Asingan town for allegedly defrauding a businesswoman and her sisters and son-in-law some P53.28 million in the last two years.

Aside from Asingan vice mayor-elect Mila Antonio, Judge Joven Costales of the regional trial court in Urdaneta City ordered the arrest of Lourdes Dioquino, one of Antonio's associates, after both were charged with large-scale estafa.

No bail was recommended for Antonio and Dioquino. Police failed to find them in their last known addresses in Barangays Domampot and Toboy in Asingan last week.

The complainant, Lota Elegado, 52, said she met Antonio three years ago through a niece. At that time, she said, she was told that Antonio was looking for financiers for her land deal with Ayala Land Corp.

Antonio was supposedly consolidating parcels of prime commercial land at Barangay Nancayasan in Urdaneta that were to be bought by the company.

Thinking it was a good business venture, Elegado said she invested P1.8 million. But her sister, Sonia Stanley, turned out to be the biggest investor with P32,278,400. Her other sisters, Leticia Domingo and Petronila Mercado, had investments of P100,000 and P800,000.

Elegado's son-in-law, Tony Ishizaki, invested P18.3 million. Ishizaki has filed a separate complaint against Antonio and her associates for syndicated estafa and falsification of public and commercial documents.

Elegado said the money was personally given to Antonio and her associates—Dioquino, Merla Faye Velasco and Irene Antonio.

"[We] deposited them in the bank accounts of Pedro de Guzman (Antonio's lawyer), Teonila Antonio and Leo Casaclang (Antonio's live-in partner)," Elegado said in a sworn statement before the special task force office of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Elegado also cited the dates and banks where she deposited their investment from Oct. 19, 2005 to Feb. 20, 2007.

She said it was only in March when she came to know that Antonio had deceived them.

"The Bureau of Internal Revenue receipt allegedly paid by Mila for the subject lots was not true … We also came to know that Mila allegedly paid taxes of the subject lots at BIR Asingan in the amount of P6,232,052 but we came to know that the receipts did not exist," Elegado said.

Elegado and her sisters said De Guzman, Antonio's lawyer, had told them that he was never with Ayala Land and "denied all representations told to us by Antonio."

On April 19, Ayala Land representatives informed them that "Antonio and her cohorts are not, and have never been part, of the Ayala organization, nor have they ever been accredited by our sales force."

# Results of Antique polls still hanging

**By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.**
*Inquirer Visayas*

SAN JOSE, ANTIQUE—THE SPECIAL board of canvassers has yet to declare the election winners in this province after it suspended the proclamation set on Friday.

The board of canvassers suspended its session at around 1 p.m., three hours after it started, after former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador questioned the legality of the appointment of a new board and its composition.

Pacificador submitted a petition at the start of the session claiming that the composition of the board was illegal because it violated the Omnibus Election Code on who can be appointed as members of the provincial board of canvassers (PBOC).

He questioned the appointment of Commission on Elections assistant regional director Tomas Valera, as assistant chair of the board, and Iloilo provincial election supervisor Elizabeth Doronila as the board's secretary.

Election laws limit the choice of the PBOC members to the provincial auditor, register of deeds, clerk of court and any other appointed provincial official, he said.

The Comelec's first division on June 7 dissolved the previous PBOC and created the new one, chaired by Comelec regional director Renato Magbutay.

The Comelec also ordered the resumption of canvassing of votes and the proclamation of winning candidates of the province.

Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez led her opponents based on election returns from the province's 18 municipalities with 68,867 votes.

Pacificador got 55,502 votes while Jovito Plameras garnered 54,062 votes.

Pacificador questioned why only the first division decided on the dissolution of the previous board and on the formation of a new one instead of the commission en banc.

"This board should not canvass and proclaim as winner any candidate," Pacificador said in an interview.

The new PBOC issued a ruling during the session dismissing Pacificador's petition. It said the first division had the authority to decide on the issue.

It also said that Pacificador should have directed his petition to the Comelec head office in Manila, which appointed the new PBOC.

While the new board dismissed Pacificador's petition, it decided to suspend its proceedings because of his intent to appeal the ruling.

"The composition of the board is being questioned. It is now constrained to suspend the canvassing and proclamation of winners," Magbutay said.

He said that the board members' acts could be declared illegal if they continued with the proceedings.

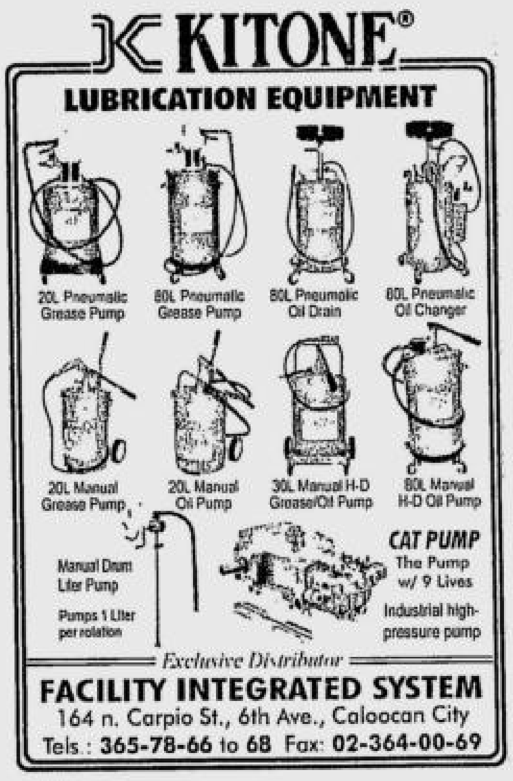
Under election rules, Pacificador has five days within which to file his appeal, after which the Comelec will issue a ruling within two days, Magbutay said.

But Governor Perez's legal counsel, Guillermo Alcantara, said the board should not have entertained Pacificador's petition.

"They should have proceeded with the canvassing and proclamation because they have no authority to resolve the legality of their appointment as PBOC," Alcantara said.

Perez said she would ask the Comelec in Manila "to call or discipline" the members of the new PBOC for failing to proclaim the winning candidates.

"The people of Antique are already exasperated why (the winning candidates) have not been proclaimed until now," the governor said in a press conference after the board suspended its session.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## ROUNDUP

### 3 killed in Bulacan bus robbery

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Three persons were killed by armed men who robbed passengers of an Ifugao-bound bus on the national highway in Barangay Salacot on June 8, police said. Supt. Manaranay Lopez, town police chief, said the robbers, armed with .45 cal. pistols, boarded the Victory Liner bus at Barangay Sta. Rita in Plaridel town.

When the bus reached Barangay Balite here, Lopez said the robbers killed Ramil Caagusan, Beljohn Bonje and Sigfried Eheng. A stray bullet wounded Isabel Monje, 10. After the robbers alighted, the bus driver, Arnel Sañez, brought the victims to the Good Samaritan Hospital in nearby Gapan City.

*Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

### Japanese found dead

VALENCIA CITY—Police have no suspect yet in the May 24 shooting of Hidetsugu Takahashi, of Hiroshima City. The Japanese was found dead with a bullet wound in the head by his Filipino wife Dorean Espinosa, whom he married on May 14, inside their apartment in Barangay Poblacion at about 2 a.m. City police chief Supt. Raul Diones said the lack of witnesses was making the investigation difficult. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

### New bridge in Bangkerohan

DAVAO CITY—Despite the loss of the administration's Team Unity here, Malacañang would fund a bridge project to replace the Governor Generoso Bridge I in Bangkerohan District.

Traffic between Bangkerohan and Matina has worsened because of the damaged bridge. What used to take 15 minutes for a trip from Matina Crossing to Bangkerohan now takes about 40 minutes. *Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

### Mall supervisor shot dead

COTABATO CITY—A mall supervisor was killed while a pedestrian was wounded in a shooting on Monday.

Alberto Magsaysay, 41, suffered bullet wounds inflicted by a .45 cal. pistol and died at the hospital, Senior Insp. Wally Casuyo, city police spokesperson, said. Hadja Racma Kusain was wounded by a stray bullet. Casuyo said the lone gunman tailed Magsaysay from his workplace at about 6 p.m. and shot him on Quezon Avenue.

*Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

### Tabuk cityhood plebiscite

TABUK, Kalinga—A plebiscite to ratify the cityhood bid of this capital town has been set for June 23.

Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. said the town (pop: 76,788 as of 2005) was prepared to become a component city of Kalinga as officials had long planned to set up a regional center for trade and commerce here.

The cityhood bid is contained in Republic Act No. 9404, which was enacted on March 23.

An agricultural town covering 741.7 hectares, Tabuk is classified as a first-class municipality (annual average income of at least P50 million) and is considered the Cordillera's rice granary. Lammawin said the local government had set aside P2.5 million to fund the plebiscite.

*Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

### Worker hurt in landslide

CEBU CITY—A construction worker was injured in a landslide on Wednesday in Budlaan, a mountain barangay here.

Bernie Antolihao, 32, was brought to North General Hospital in Talamban by paramedics and moved to Cebu Doctors' Hospital at the city proper.

William Miro, executive officer of the Cebu City Disaster and Coordinating Council, said Antolihao and seven others were working on a riprap project within the compound of a private school, Marie Ernestine School, when the soil caved in.

Antolihao was reportedly buried, but his companions immediately dug him up.

*Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

### 3 new priests

SAN PABLO CITY—Bishop Leo M. Drona of the San Pablo Diocese will ordain three deacons to the priesthood in a eucharistic celebration to be held at the San Pablo Cathedral at 9 a.m. today.

To be raised to the Order of Presbyters are Rev. Reyben B. Brosas, 42 of Majayjay, Laguna; Rev. Salve M. Llona, 32 of Bicol; and Rev. Manuel R. Manggao, 30 of Mamatid, Cabuyao, Laguna.

Nine more candidates who recently graduated in theology from theological schools and universities are preparing for their diaconate ordination within six months as required by Canon Law. *Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### Laguna to honor Rizal

STA CRUZ, Laguna—Through a memorandum signed on June 6, incumbent and reelectionist Gov. Teresita S. Lazaro proclaimed June 19 as a special nonworking holiday in Calamba City, the hometown of national hero Jose P. Rizal, and in the entire province.

The declaration would give residents time and energy to commemorate the 146th birthday of Rizal. *Romulo Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

### 21 nabbed for illegal fishing

ALAMINOS CITY—Police and volunteers arrested in separate incidents at least 21 people from Anda and Sual towns on charges of illegal fishing in the waters off this city.

Mayor Hernani Braganza said 14 suspects, who were from Anda, were operating a baby trawl using fine-mesh nets, which are considered illegal fishing gear, in the waters off Telbang and Victoria villages on June 9.

Braganza said the suspects also encroached on a protected sea grass bed.

Police seized 345 kilograms of assorted fish worth P17,000 from the suspects. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

### Chinese-Filipino Friendship Day

BAGUIO CITY—The city celebrated the Chinese-Filipino Friendship Day last week to rekindle Chinese-Filipino relations that date back to the pre-Hispanic era.

"We are celebrating not only a relationship [borne out of formal diplomatic relations] but five centuries of friendship," said Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia during a fellowship dinner on June 9.

Local historians say Chinese traders had been trading porcelain jars and other chinaware with traditionally mined Igorot gold before the Spaniards came.

"Baguio is not Baguio without the Chinese-Filipino," said Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. He said the city's economy developed with the help of the Chinese, who, along with Japanese and other foreigners, stayed after building Kennon Road in the early 1900s *Maurice Malanes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

## Fire destroys house of new mayor

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Terror gripped the small town of Ibaan, Batangas, on Saturday when a fire razed several commercial establishments and houses in the town proper, including the house of its incoming mayor.

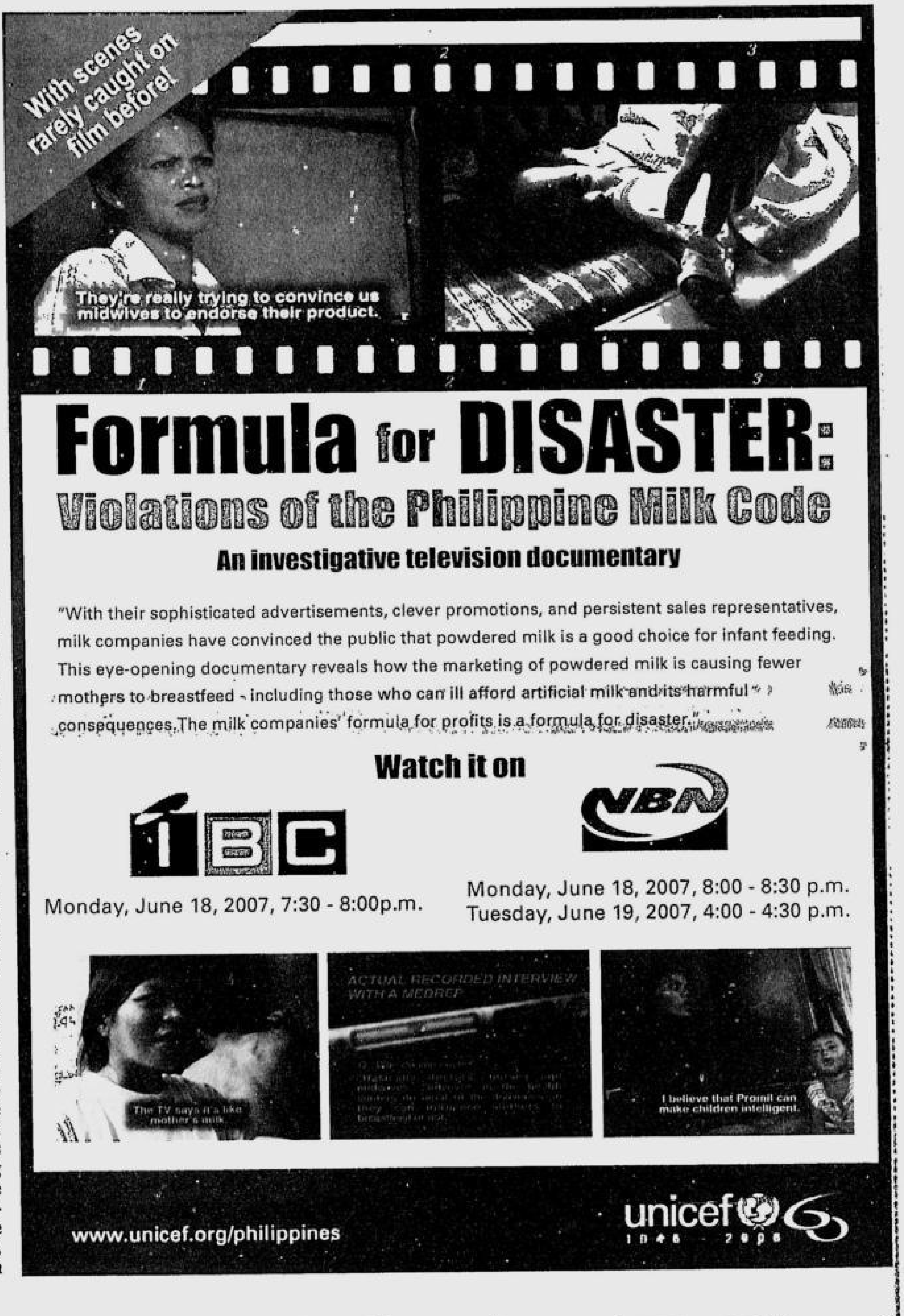
Insp. Ferdinand Von Nicasio, operations chief of the Batangas fire department, said the fire started at around 7 p.m. from an abandoned house in Barangay Poblacion.

Because most of the houses in the area were made of wood, the fire quickly spread and engulfed at least two commercial buildings, he said.

The fire also destroyed the house of newly elected Mayor Remigio Hernandez.

Nicasio said the local fire station needed the help of firefighters from at least seven neighboring towns to put out the fire at around 9:30 p.m.

Nicasio said that although no one was hurt in the fire, an employee of outgoing Mayor Artemio Chua died after he accidentally slipped on the floor of his house while trying to rush to the house of the mayor to inform him about the fire. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*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wooden box — size 30"x80"x38" before 26,000 now 13,000
stack unit w/ wood flap — size 100"x33"x33" before 10,700 now 7,704
TV cabinet-medium — size 78"x45"x38" before 24,000 now 7,200
side table — size 23"x23"x18" before 8,830 now 4,732
double bed glass — size 787"x336"x227" before 80,160 now 32,064
book case — size 81"x30"x148" before 34,000 now 10,200
coffee table-big — size 105 dia x 43 cms before 146,570 now 15,800
cabinet — size 88"x57"x151" before 80,000 now 18,226
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# Comelec affirms Bogo is now 6th city of Cebu

**By Jolene R. Bulambot**
*Inquirer Visayas*

CEBU CITY—FROM FIVE COMPONENT cities, the province now has six after the Commission on Elections proclaimed Saturday night the conversion of the municipality of Bogo into a city.

The former agricultural town in northern Cebu held a plebiscite on June 16. About 60 percent of 40,278 registered voters cast their ballots.

Bogo election officer Jose Minguez said Republic Act No. 9370, which legislated cityhood for Bogo, immediately took effect after the proclamation, making June 16 as the Charter Day of the new component city.

"The residents of Bogo have spoken through the plebiscite and now Bogo is officially a city," he said.

Other component cities of Cebu are Danao, Toledo, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Talisay. Cebu City is classified as a highly urbanized city and independent from the province of Cebu.

Minguez said 24,488 out of the total number of registered voters cast their votes on Saturday. A total of 23,955 voted "yes" while 482 voted "no" to Bogo's cityhood.

Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez (4th District) filed the bill in 1999 but it was only in January 2006 that it became law.

Outgoing Bogo Mayor Celestino Martinez III told the INQUIRER that the proclamation of Bogo's cityhood was a "dream come true and an achievement" that the residents had been waiting for the past nine years.

Bogo City is composed of 29 barangays with a population of 80,000 and with an internal revenue allotment of P38 million, Martinez said.

Mayor-elect Celestino Martinez II, the father of the outgoing mayor, said that crafting the new city's master plan would be first on his agenda after his assumption to office.

The older Martinez, a former congressman in the fourth district, said Bogo City would be Cebu's center for trade and commerce and an economic gateway to Samar, Leyte, Masbate and nearby provinces.

Provincial election supervisor Lionel Marco Castillano said the conduct of the plebiscite was generally peaceful despite the contested May 14 elections where several election returns have yet to be canvassed because of election protests filed by both congressional candidates, outgoing Mayor Martinez and his rival, businessman Benhur Salimbangon.

Two units from the Special Reaction Unit from the Cebu Provincial Police Office supervised the plebiscite.

Castillano said Comelec Manila was still setting aside the 18 election returns pending a hearing scheduled for June 26.

Martinez and Salimbangon have exchanged accusations of political fraud, prompting the local board of canvassers to stop the canvass and bring the ERs to Manila for technical evaluation.

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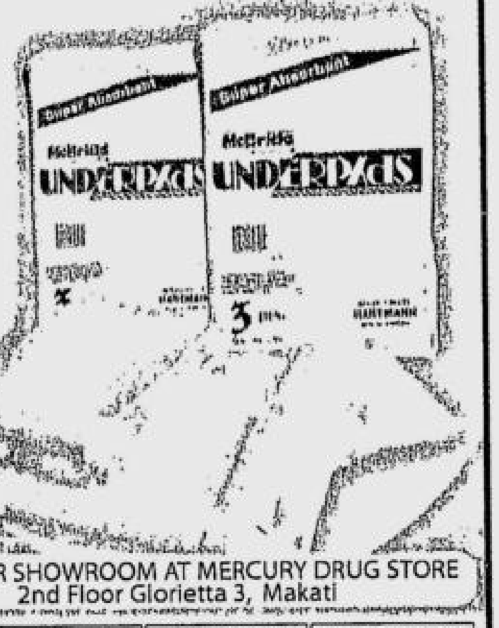

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A BOY walks on runway of the old Iloilo Airport that closed down after 70 years of service, paving the way for the operations of a new one. The tarmac of the old airport has become a virtual playground for children.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

# Advantages of open skies seen at Cebu air travel meet

**By Irene R. Sino Cruz**
*Inquirer Visayas*

CEBU CITY—WHILE THE OPEN SKIES POLICY would have adversely affect operations of local airline companies, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, some industry stakeholders said.

The open skies policy is an aviation principle that allows foreign airlines to operate unlimited services in another country. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) agreement would initially apply on routes between Asean capitals and would later expand to other cities.

Exception for one, most panelists, discussing open skies during the Cebu Business Month tourism congress favored this policy. The meet was held at the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City.

Avelino Zapanta, president and chief executive officer of SeaAir, maintained that the Philippines had to adopt this policy to be able to catch up with other Asian countries.

Zapanta recalled that when he was still with Philippine Airlines, the company introduced air travel to Vietnam.

"We taught them to fly. And now they are way ahead of us. Do you care for your country enough you don't want to see it lagging behind?" he asked lone dissenter Robert Lim Joseph, chair of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies and the Travel Cooperative of the Philippines.

Zapanta noted that the Philippines would have to comply with the open skies policy scheduled for implementation in 2008 as agreed by Asean members.

He said the Philippines should implement open skies "because closing up could perpetuate (the Philippines) in being a laggard."

Joseph told the congress participants that he was not opposing liberalized air policies or even open skies, "provided it is reciprocal and there is fair exchange between contracting parties."

"I am against unilaterally granting access rights to foreign airlines without clear guarantee that their governments would grant the same concessions to Philippine carriers," he said.

Unless the volume of passenger traffic is huge, Joseph said, the foreign airlines would not come even with an open skies policy.

But Narzalina Lim, president of Asia Pacific Projects Inc., noted that the open skies policy in other areas resulted in increased flights and passenger traffic. But she said the government had to monitor the policy's implementation to prevent any abuse.

Cathay Pacific Airways manager Eddie Kong maintained that open skies policy would boost the tourism industry.

Zapanta urged the Civil Aeronautics Board to allow the small airlines to implement their expansion plans to prepare for open skies.

"Our own regulatory bodies are hesitant (to give) our carriers a head start for the Asean open skies in 2008," he added.

# Cops nab militant farmer for old slay try charges

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Another farmer who belongs to the militant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) was arrested by police for two frustrated murder charges filed several years ago in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, on Friday, police said.

Senior Supt. Audie Arroyo, Occidental Mindoro police director, said Rogelio Marquez, 27, was driving his hand tractor when he was seized by members of the 407th Police Provincial Mobile Group (PPMG) at around 11 a.m. in Sitio Artema, Barangay Bubog.

ANG SA
KILUSANG
MAGSASAKA
NO TO
POLIT

LEFTIST protesters rally in front of Camp Crame to denounce the abduction of their leaders.
JOAN BONDOC

Marquez is the fourth militant arrested by police and military agents for charges filed a number of years before.

Carl Ala, KMP spokesperson, had reported that Marquez was abducted.

Marquez is a member of Alyansa ng Magsasaka sa San Jose, an affiliate of Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kanlurang Mindoro, the provincial chapter of KMP, he said.

"Government authorities have no legal basis to hold our colleague. They better release Marquez now or we will be forced to press charges against those who took him," Ala said in a mobile phone interview.

But Arroyo said Marquez was arrested based on warrants issued by Mamburao Regional Trial Court Judge Inocencio Jaurigue for two counts of frustrated murder.

Arroyo said the farmer was one of several men who figured in a gunfight between government forces and suspected rebels in Occidental Mindoro a few years ago.

When asked if Marquez is a member of the New People's Army, he replied: "We still cannot tell if he is indeed an NPA. We are still conducting an investigation."

Asked how Marquez was included in the case, he answered: "I really don't know anything about the case because it was filed before I was appointed provincial director."

Arroyo, however, insisted that the seizure of the farmer was covered by legal documents.

"There were arrest warrants for him. How can that be abduction? That's only an allegation of his colleagues from the leftist groups," he said over the phone.

*Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

# GO lawyer warns poll body on fake vote tallies

From page A1

Zubiri are contesting.

"There were reports that the municipal CoCs (certificates of canvass) were being manufactured, which is not surprising if true, considering the time that has passed since the elections," Brillantes told the INQUIRER by phone.

Brillantes said that to manufacture 22 municipal CoCs (MCoC), or vote tallies, for the 22 towns of Maguindanao would be difficult but noted that a month had passed since the May 14 elections and "there was plenty of time."

He said there would be "numerous manufactured documents" to be accomplished, including statements of votes and election returns per precinct.

"(The operators) had almost a month to do this. For sure, these manufactured MCoCs would reflect what is in the provincial CoC," Brillantes said.

The "ultimate support" would be the election returns, he said.

The controversial Maguindanao provincial CoC showed a 12-0 sweep for Team Unity.

Nineteen senatorial candidates, seven of them from GO, also had zero votes—which Abalos himself had said was "statistically improbable."

Brillantes said the possibility of having fake municipal CoCs was one of the reasons the opposition had vehemently opposed the Comelec decision on Friday to go to Maguindanao to see for itself if there were available election documents that could be used to reconstitute the special provincial board of canvassers.

## GO's solution

"If there were MCoCs in the first place, these should have already been sent to Manila when the national board of canvassers asked for these to be tabulated by the special provincial board of canvassers," Brillantes said in Filipino.

Brillantes also took note of the report of Maguindanao provincial election supervisor Lintang Bedol that the municipal vote tallies in his possession had been stolen from his office.

"If the Comelec finds MCoCs, which could have been manufactured, and use these as a basis for the new provincial CoC, if that happens, I really don't know," Brillantes said.

He said GO would oppose the recanvassing of the provincial CoC using the municipal tallies that the Comelec might find in its trip to Maguindanao.

Brillantes reiterated GO's position: Exclude Maguindanao from the canvassing of the senatorial results.

"If Maguindanao is excluded, Zubiri will lose," Brillantes said.

## Either Koko or Migs

Based on the Comelec's latest official tally—without the Maguindanao canvass—Pimentel is ahead of Zubiri by more than 111,000 votes.

Brillantes said that if the results of the questionable Maguindanao provincial tallies were tabulated, Zubiri would dislodge Pimentel from the 12th and last slot.

A photograph of the Maguindanao CoC shown to reporters had Zubiri with 195,823 votes in the province against Pimentel's 67,057 votes.

In a report sent to its national headquarters in Manila and to foreign partner organizations, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) provincial chapter said elections were indeed held in Maguindanao.

Its report, however, covered only six of Maguindanao's 22 towns.

PPCRV national chair Henrietta de Villa confirmed that Fr. David Procalla, the PPCRV's head coordinator in Cotabato City and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, had sent a report to Manila stating that elections were held in Maguindanao on May 14.

ABALOS

But De Villa told the INQUIRER by phone that the PPCRV was able to observe elections only in six Maguindanao municipalities, including controversial Pagalungan town.

## No watchers

It was in Pagalungan that some school teachers said gunmen seized them and the ballot boxes in their possession and filled out the ballots with the names of the TU candidates.

De Villa said the PPCRV and its partners were able to enter the polling precincts in Pagalungan, Buluan, Datu Piang, Guindulungan, Shariff Aguak and Sultan sa Barongis.

But De Villa said that even if the volunteers were able to enter the polling places, they were not allowed to observe the canvassing of votes.

"For the canvassing, none at all, we were not allowed inside," she said.

Moreover, the certificates of votes from the polling precincts they were able to monitor were unsigned by the board of election inspectors (BEIs).

**ELEKSYON 2007**

**PARTY-LIST VOTES**

**Official Comelec Party-list count as of June 9, 6 p.m.**

**Total number of votes counted: 13,719,165**

| Rank | Party-list | Votes | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Buhay | 1,111,035 | 8.1 |
| 2. | Bayan Muna | 903,600 | 6.59 |
| 3. | Cibac | 720,153 | 5.25 |
| 4. | Gabriela | 566,571 | 4.13 |
| 5. | APEC | 479,608 | 3.5 |
| 6. | A-Teacher | 446,929 | 3.26 |
| 7. | Akbayan | 420,910 | 3.07 |
| 8. | Butil | 403,209 | 2.94 |
| 9. | Alagad | 402,918 | 2.94 |
| 10. | Batas | 360,277 | 2.63 |
| 11. | Coop Natcco | 341,971 | 2.49 |
| 12. | Anakpawis | 340,392 | 2.48 |
| 13. | Abono | 333,603 | 2.43 |
| 14. | Agap | 319,311 | 2.33 |
| 15. | ARC | 295,499 | 2.15 |
| 16. | An Waray | 270,791 | 1.97 |
| 17. | FPJPM. | 258,773 | 1.89 |
| 18. | Amin | 252,250 | 1.84 |
| 19. | ABS | 213,927 | 1.56 |
| 20. | Kabataan | 211,074 | 1.54 |

**CoCs not yet tabulated:** Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, One town in Shariff Kabunsuan, Biñan, Laguna, Some towns in Batangas, Bogo, Cebu, Zamboanga del Sur

She added that the BEIs and even the Comelec election officers prevented the PPCRV volunteers from entering the polling places in the other Maguindanao towns despite the group's Comelec accreditation.

De Villa said the council was able to observe the elections in the six towns because of its partnership with a Bangsamoro civil society group and Anfrel, a foreign observers' group.

## Datumanong's formula

The provincial chapter's report briefly referred to the snatching of 19 ballot boxes in four barangays in Pagalungan but did not mention anything about gunmen filling out the ballots themselves, or forcing teachers to fill them out.

Procalla, during a talk with the INQUIRER, said the PPCRV's network of local organizations, as well as those from Anfrel, deployed volunteers to the towns of Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Buluan, Guindulungan, Sultan Sa Barongis and Pagalungan in Maguindanao, and to Parang, Barira, Buldon, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Mastura and other areas of Shariff Kabunsuan.

In its report, the PPCRV's provincial network said getting poll volunteers was a problem because of the "reluctance among some individuals ... given the reality that in this province, only the leaders decide whom the people should vote (for) and only a few dare to disobey at their own risk and that of their relatives."

It also cited fund shortage as another reason for the difficulty in getting volunteers.

Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong said the Comelec could not just set aside the votes cast in the province because its commissioners could face an impeachable offense for violation of voters' rights.

Datumanong suggested three options to address the Maguindanao controversies:

- Go to the Supreme Court on the issue of special elections.
- Go back to precinct-by-precinct appreciation of municipal tallies which could be a year-long process.
- The Comelec en banc sitting as the National Board of Canvassers constitute itself into a task force to retrieve election documents from the 22 towns.

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# 2 lessons from the trenches

From page A1

tears from her cheeks, Julie Rose Defensor sat in rapt attention with their four young children as she listened to her husband Michael, 37, concede defeat.

"I concede to ease the tension on the ground and dismiss any notion that there may be illegal acts committed to attain my victory," Mike Defensor of the administration's Team Unity (TU) said.

"I concede so as to enjoin my allies and friends who may want, in their desire to have me win, commit acts inimical to the essence of democracy and fair play in an electoral battle. I concede because I love my family and I want my children to learn that there is honor in defeat. I thank all those who helped me with the campaign. We ran a good one and no one is to blame. No regrets. It was all worth it," he added.

"Of course, I feel bad, but that's politics—you win some and lose some. I take full responsibility for my defeat. My family and campaign leaders did their best.

"The last two weeks of canvassing and monitoring have been grueling to me and my family. The tension, anxiety, and the waiting have taken a toll even on my children, who have ardently included my victory in their night prayers. My wife and all my children campaigned for me like there was no tomorrow, from the early hours of the morning till the late hours of the night. With that, I am already victorious."

Then he addressed himself in the third person, as if there was a second Mike Defensor in the room, not Mike Defensor the senatorial candidate but the President's chief of staff: "I am saddened that he would not be part of the 14th Congress. My unsolicited advice to him is to reinvent himself, show his independence from President Arroyo. He deserves to be seen as more than an apologist of the President."

Lest he be misunderstood, he hastened to add: "My defeat is not the President's loss."

Then, having made peace with everyone else, he made peace with himself: "God has His purpose and I submit to (God's) will. My only prayer is that, after all this is done, we reconcile as a people, heal the wounds of the past, and work together in building this nation. I concede. May peace and serenity prevail."

Then his mood changed. Mike Defensor said he would drive his kids to school for a year. But now, there was a more urgent task; he had promised to take his kids to Disneyland, and it was time to fulfill that promise.

There is also honor in keeping a promise. He would also teach that to his kids—if that was the last thing he would do.

## Home is the sailor

As his face grew more flushed, Ralph Recto, 43, delivered his valedictory to the Senate.

"This is the time to accept the will of the people. But fate has not smiled kindly upon us this time. The outpouring of votes is impressive and warmly appreciated but not enough to constitute a mandate to serve," Recto of TU told his fellow senators in the dying days of the 13th Congress.

"It is a verdict I accept without rancor or bitterness," he added.

"I am grateful that 10 million of my fellow citizens expressed belief in my abilities to represent them. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every one of you for the trust you have reposed in me, including the 22 men and women here who wrote my name on the ballot.

"I will gently go out of this institution, comforted in the thought that every waking day that I had served out my mandate, I did it to the best of my ability, and always with the best interest of the country in mind.

"If I shall end up as a footnote in history, I shall be blissfully content being remembered as one who chose principles over popularity, and did what was right rather than what was expedient."

Referring to his sponsorship of the highly unpopular expanded value-added tax law, Recto said he preferred to be remembered as the one who didn't hide in safe harbors but who sailed in open seas, sometimes against the gale of public opinion, out of the belief, like sailors of yore, that one can only make progress if he loses sight of the land.

"The duty of a member of this chamber is not to pander to what is popular but to uphold what is right, a senator who came before us said," Recto continued, referring to his grandfather, the late Sen. Claro M. Recto.

"This is true, otherwise those who will sit in this chamber will be a hostage to constant reinvention, depending on where the political wind blows, when duty required adherence to core beliefs.

"My grandfather practiced supply-side politics, and that involved voicing contrary opinions, when popularity contests otherwise known as elections require a candidate to take the safest course to a new mandate, and that is to say what everybody is thinking but in the loudest voice. I shall now pay the price of my intransigence. But I have no regrets."

Recto said he looked forward to "savor(ing) simple joys (such) as driving my kid to school, taking him out swimming, honing his putting skills, or going with him to the mall."

This precocious kid had invented Recto's battle cry, "Ko-Recto!"—and his young mind was unable to comprehend how his daddy, his hero—so noble and so brave—could lose so unmercifully in the elections. Recto said he would keep trying to explain life's mysteries to his son until he understood.

Then Recto dashed through his last line before emotions choked his words: "To the love of my life who (has) stood by me through these years, whose grit and grace continue to inspire and amaze me, now I can say, 'Honey, I'm home.'"

Honey is Batangas Governor-elect Vilma Santos. Trying to hold back her tears, she was livid: "I know deep in my heart how much he wanted to serve his country," she said in between sobs.

She surmised that because she had run against the incumbent governor of Batangas, the association of provincial governors had made good the threat to dump her husband. It was this or the E-VAT, or both.

Then, perhaps realizing her husband was coming home, she walked away and waved goodbye. She had begun to smile again.

## Another casualty

Former Sen. John Osmeña of the Genuine Opposition (GO), who had done worse than Recto in the senatorial race, was in an introspective mood. Early in the campaign, he had been in the magic circle 12, albeit close to the bottom, but he wanted to improve his position because it was not safe where he stood.

Doing his mathematics, he figured that TU's much-advertised "command votes" would be worth at least 600,000 votes. His cousin managing the GO campaign, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, was even more pessimistic: The command votes could go all the way to a million.

John Osmeña did a risky thing: He launched a hard-hitting television commercial that showed him tearing up a copy of the E-VAT law because it had made the poor suffer more. His ratings fell through the floor.

But he blamed the poll surveys; he said the results were for sale, and since he had not subscribed to the survey, they had rigged the results to make him look bad. He took the pollsters to the Commission on Elections, where he had filed a complaint.

The pollsters said John Osmeña should fix his television commercial instead. The voters did not like the way he attacked the E-VAT law, although they also did not like its author, Ralph Recto.

Now looking back, John Osmeña agreed he had made a mistake. "But at least I took down with me the principal author of the law," he said.

## Dangerous ground

Throughout the campaign, political pundits who did not understand the political risks had continually complained that the quality of the political discourse was sadly lacking in substance.

Our democratic model, the United States, may offer an explanation. After he quit the presidential race in 1988, Gary Hart told a symposium at Yale University: "Will not a culture which treats politics like a sport (i.e., 'handlers') and lumps political figures with soap opera characters produce more celebrities than statesmen?"

"We are, in a word, trivializing our own leadership, together with the offices to which they aspire, including the presidency," Hart said. The problem was a "media filter which demands simplicity, rewards tactics, and is transfixed by personality."

By treating the electorate as "immature," politicians continue to "underwhelm" the voters by talking beneath their heads. What happens, according to political scientist Walter Dean Burnham, is that elections become a "revolution of declining expectations."

Instead of elevating the level of political discourse, politicians, the people and the press go around in a phantasmagoria of the Philippine zarzuela-cum-theater of the absurd, where images pass for insight, sound bites for substance, and demagoguery for discernment.

Issues and platform are treacherous quicksand. The safest way to win is to tread the familiar, skirt conflict, and avoid commitment. Or is it? *(Next: The voters bite back)*

*(Editor's Note: The author is the founding CEO of the Institute for Policy Research and Strategic Studies. For comments, e-mail mibc2006@gmail.com.)*

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# *New center to document RP dialects*

From page A1

scholars and writers from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera, the United States and Japan.

Called "Nakem" (consciousness or maturity in Iloko), the three-day gathering at the Mariano Marcos Memorial State University tackled, besides the Ilocano diaspora, the state of Philippine dialects and languages.

Nolasco said the center, to be established within three years, would create original and model dictionary, grammar and orthography (spelling), scholarly journals and literacy materials and references for teaching various disciplines.

He said the center would be a storehouse of data on various dialects and languages, and would be equipped with audio and video recording of communicative events, including annotations and commentaries.

The project is in line with the policy, "Isang Bansa, Maraming Wika" (One Nation, Many Languages), which is the basis for this year's language theme, "Many Languages, Strong Country," Nolasco said.

English, as one of the country's official languages, will also be enhanced, the KWF chair said.

## Dialects a big advantage

The policy has been formulated in keeping with the fact that the Filipino is multilingual and multicultural, and that the country's having more than 170 dialects and regional languages is not a handicap but a big advantage, according to Nolasco.

"It is ordinary for a Filipino to know how to speak two or more languages," he said, citing the case of President Macapagal-Arroyo who can speak Kapampangan, Sinebwano, Iloko, Tagalog, English and Spanish.

The country, however, has a national language, Filipino, that has become a common language for various ethnolinguistic groups.

Although Filipino is not the mother tongue of most Filipinos, it has become their second language, according to Nolasco.

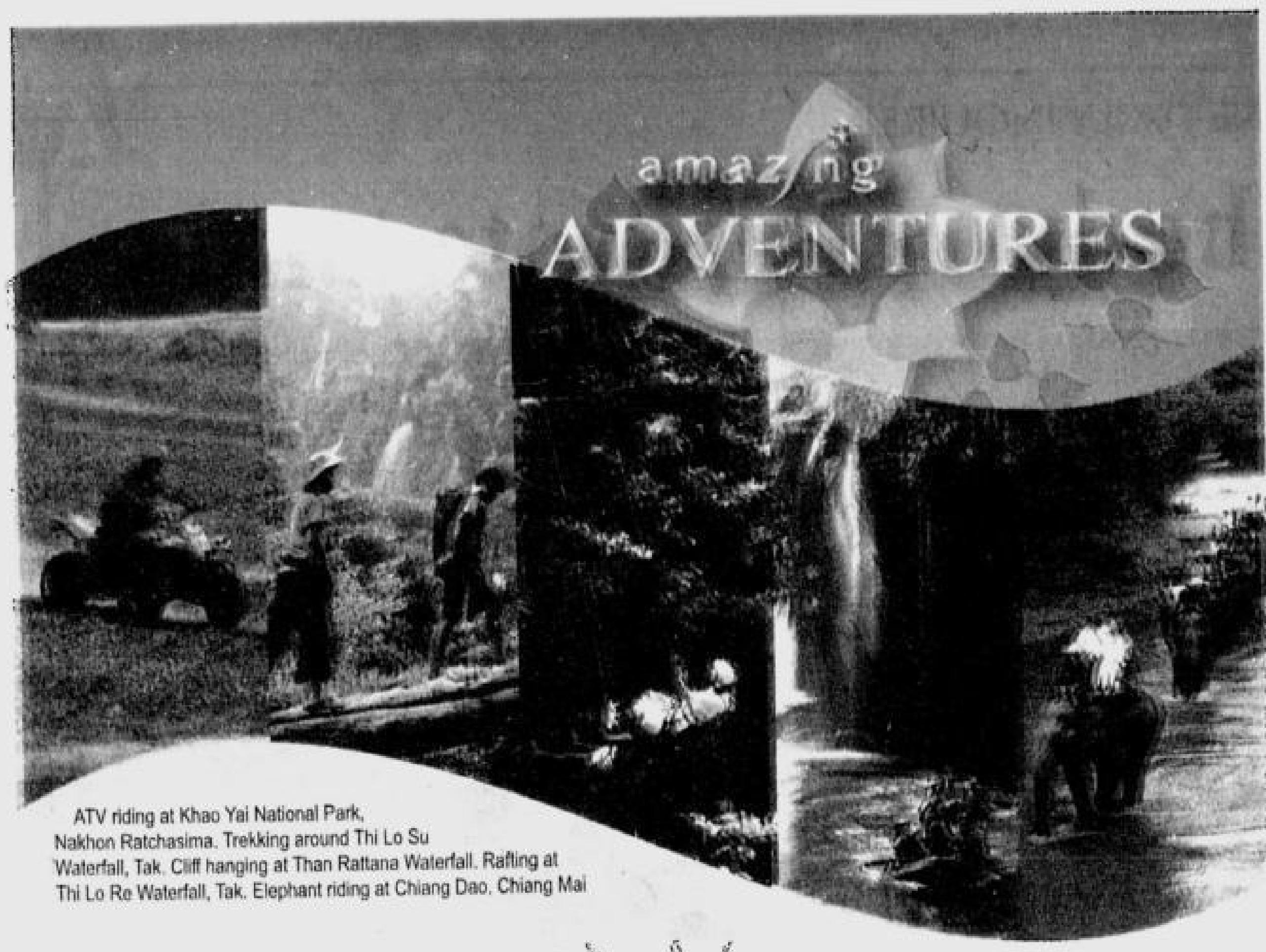
## Tagalog syntax, grammar

He acknowledged that Filipino was simply Tagalog in syntax and grammar, with no grammatical element or lexicon coming from Iloko, Sinebwano, Ilonggo and other major Philippine languages.

This is contrary to the intention of Republic Act No. 7104 that requires that the national language be developed and enriched by the lexicon of the country's other dialects and languages.

The KWF is working toward that direction and would conduct research and studies not only on the national language but also on the country's dialects and languages, Nolasco said.

He said the KWF would be strengthening its various programs on Philippine lexicography, grammar, national translation, phonology, phonetics, orthography, language mapping, including literacy projects and language teaching.



ATV riding at Khao Yai National Park, Nakhon Ratchasima. Trekking around Thi Lo Su Waterfall, Tak. Cliff hanging at Than Rattana Waterfall. Rafting at Thi Lo Re Waterfall, Tak. Elephant riding at Chiang Dao, Chiang Mai

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# Late Sports

**MULTITASKING** forward Arwind Santos dives in an attempt to pry the ball loose from the hands of Talk 'N Text import JJ Sullinger.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# San Miguel, TNT reach semifinals

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk 'N text
7:20 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Alaska

By Musong R. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT ALMOST QUIT PLAYING AFter erecting a 21-point fourth-quarter lead, needing big buckets in the stretch from Mac Cardona and JJ Sullinger to salvage a 114-112 victory over Air21 yesterday that put the Phone Pals in the PBA Fiesta Cup semifinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardona completed a three-point play off Mark Telan and Sullinger nailed a crucial triple with the shot clock about to expire as the Phone Pals closed out their best-of-three quarterfinal duel at 2-1 and advanced against defending champion Red Bull.

In the second game, San Miguel Beer completed its version of a fourth-quarter comeback, erasing a 16-point deficit with 6:26 to go to pound out a 117-114 overtime decision of Barangay Ginebra and advance opposite the Alaska Aces in the other semifinal series.

Chris Calaguio scored nine of his 19 points in extra time and Wesley Gonzales scored 10 of his 20 in the fourth quarter as the Beermen dodged another fatal bullet and won their fourth do-or-die game in the tournament.

"We lost our focus, we thought the game was over," Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren said, referring to the Pals' near collapse after they've built a 101-80 lead with still 7:41 to play.

Cardona, the pesky swingman out of De La Salle, scored a career-high 31 points, his final point actually coming from the free throw line with 25.1 to go that gave Talk 'N Text a 113-110 lead.

Telan made it a one-point game with a layup and the Express sent Sullinger to the stripe for two free throws with 8.7 seconds left. The high-leaping left-hander made just the rear end of his attempt to give the Express one final chance to tie or even win the game.

But Jimwell Torion threw away a bad outlet pass to a streaking, wide-open Telan.

Red Bull, resting for more than two weeks now after topping the eliminations, will come into the best-of-seven series with Talk 'N Text fresh as a daisy. The semis starts Wednesday also at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Air21 fightback came swift, with burly import Shawn Daniels leading the way to finish with a career-high 34 points, 15 of them in the final period.

The Express battled back with a 28-8 run and came within 108-109 with 52 seconds left after a third straight basket by Daniels.

Sullinger then nailed the shot of the night, a tripie over the outstretched arms of Niño Canaleta going into the final 31 seconds for 112-108.

The scores:

**TALK 'N TEXT 114**—Cardona 31, Sullinger 23, Washington 21, Allado 14, Carey 12, Billones 5, Belano 4, Fran 2, De Ocampo 2.

**AIR21 112**—Daniels 34, Canaleta 22, Telan 14, Arboleda 14, Torion 11, Santos 10, Se 7, Marquez 0, Andaya 0, Dimaunahan 0.

Quarters: 28-22, 53-40, 89-73, 114-112

Second Game

**SAN MIGUEL BEER 117**—Gonzales 20, Calaquio 19, Tenorio 17, Young 17, Ildefonso 14, Villanueva 9, Adriano 9, Pena 9, Racela 3, Wilson 0.

**BARANGAY GINEBRA 114**—Nealy 37, Macapagal 19, Salvacion 17, Tubid 14, Menk 11, Santos 7, Abarrientos 5, Mamaril 4, Seigle 0.

Quarters: 32-24, 51-56, 74-83, 104-104, 117-114

More Sports stories on A29 to 32

# Lady Stags whip Ateneo tossers, seize solo lead

By Romina S. Austria

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE LIVED UP TO ITS potential, beating Ateneo for the second time in six days, 25-19, 25-17, 25-23, to assume the solo lead at the start of the semifinal round of the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament the The Arena in San Juan.

The defending NCAA champion Lady Stags, now more formidable with Thai guest player Joroensri Bualee at the helm, improved to 7-1 and overtook elimination-round co-leader Lyceum Lady Pirates.

La Salle beat Lyceum in the first game, 25-9, -25-21, 25-16, for its fourth win in eight matches. The Lady Pirates dropped to second spot with a 6-2 slate.

"I think two wins out of our four semifinal games would be enough to put us in the finals," said SSC coach Roger Gorayeb. "But then, we shouldn't be complacent because every [team] is capable of winning. We just have to keep our focus every game."

The Lady Stags were never threatened in the match, except in the closing minutes of the third set when the Lady Eagles tied the game four times, the last at 22-all.

A spike by Lady Stag Rysabelle Devanadera followed by a backline violation by Ateneo restored San Sebastian's lead, 24-22.

After a Bualee sideout that allowed Ateneo to close in anew, 23-24, last year's NCAA Most Valuable Player Jinni Mondejar ended the match in San Sebastian's favor with a smash.

San Sebastian beat Ateneo on the final day of the elimination last June 12, 23-25, 25-16, 25-18, 33-31.

Bualee led the Lady Stags again with 25 points while Laurence Ann Latigay chipped in 12.

Ateneo's Thai guest player and assistant coach Kanchana Jindarat was used sparingly in the second and third sets as the back spasms that hounded her in the latter part of the elimination phase bothered her anew.

La Salle, which had to hurdle Adamson University in a playoff last Thursday for the fifth and last semifinal berth, drew 14 points from Thai guest player Areerat Sanorseang and 11 from Desiree Hernandez.

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| S. Sebastian | 7 | 1 |
| Lyceum | 6 | 2 |
| UST | 4 | 3 |
| La Salle | 4 | 4 |
| Ateneo | 3 | 5 |

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs San Sebastian
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UST

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# All sectors unite to fight bird flu

In a country that seems divided over every issue, it's refreshing to see how the threat of bird flu has brought varied sectors together.

Since the bird flu outbreaks in 2003 in several Asian countries, the government and various private sector entities have embarked on an increasing number of efforts to shield our shores. Spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health, the National Avian Influenza Task Force (NAITF) has brought together not only government agencies in agriculture, health, natural resources, local government, disaster management, finance and media information, but poultry industry representatives, veterinary experts and foreign aid agencies as well.

The NAITF's efforts have so far focused on sustaining surveillance activities in critical areas of the country, and educating and training Local Government Units (LGUs) and poultry stakeholders. They've also stepped up controls against illegal importation of live birds and processed poultry products from countries banned due to bird flu.

Many other sectors and organizations have helped, each in their own way. The Corporate Coalition against Bird Flu is urging and helping big companies prepare contingency plans for a possible pandemic. Other governments like Japan have also helped.

Groups like the WHO, FAO, UNICEF, and the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) have focused on education and awareness. UNICEF has adopted NAITF's program called, "Bird Flu, Kayang Iwasan, Kayang Pigilan", turning its efforts towards children —a segment found to be very susceptible to bird flu, based on the experiences of affected countries.

On the other hand, the PPI has introduced a training program for journalists. Given the technical nature of bird flu and of pandemics, deep knowledge and understanding will be needed to accurately report on developments.

LGUs have pledged financial and logistical support. Local officials and veterinary authorities have eagerly attended training sessions, especially in regions where migratory birds are seasonally plentiful or where there are large broiler, layer, and duck populations. They want to find out how best to protect their constituency's livelihood activities, and prepare for any future incidence of bird flu within their localities.

(Materials and other information are available at www.iwasbirdflu.com).

. President GMA herself has pledged to release funds to implement measures preventing the entry of bird flu, as well as to prepare the resources necessary to cope with a possible outbreak.

And this spirit of unity—fostered by the fear of bird flu —extends beyond our shores. Countries constantly bickering on trade and foreign policy have been sharing manpower, resources, and information to further combat bird flu. President GMA promised help to Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in educating the Indonesian health sector. A team of six highly-trained government veterinarians was formed and dispatched immediately. In a recent ASEAN Summit, one of the key decisions was to organize a united stand against bird flu.

The beauty of this whole effort is in how we didn't have to come to a crisis to realize the need to come together. Whatever disputes have been set aside, and it may make all the difference.

The Philippines is one of the last bird flu free countries in Asia, and is hanging by a thread. But with the various sectors, and countries, all pulling together and holding on, it just might not break.

From the People of Japan  NAITF National Avian Influenza Task Force  Department of Agriculture  Bureau of Animal Industry  Department of Health  Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  unicef

## IWAS BIRD FLU

### Signs of Bird Flu in Birds

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purpled discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Incoordination
- Diarrhea

### Tips on how to protect yourself from Bird Flu

- **Practice proper hygiene.**
  Practice proper hand-washing before and after handling poultry.
- **Protect the children.**
  Do not allow children to play with the birds.
- **Protect yourself and your workers.**
  Wear proper protective clothing and vaccinate workers and handlers when possible.
- **Protect your neighbors.**
  Report cases of sick, dying, or dead birds to the bird flu hotline or to your local veterinary clinic.

**Call the Bird Flu Hotline:**
**925-9999**

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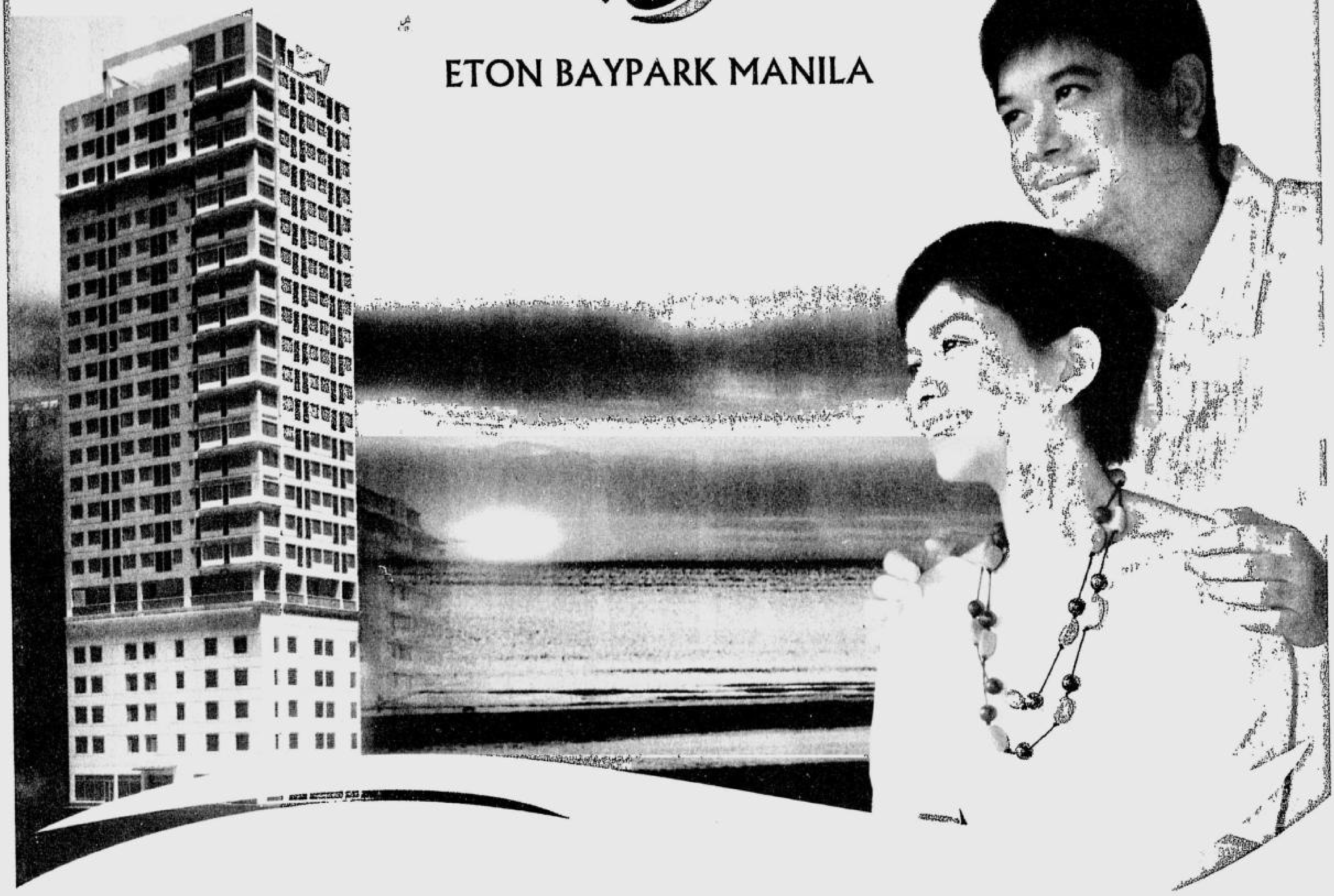

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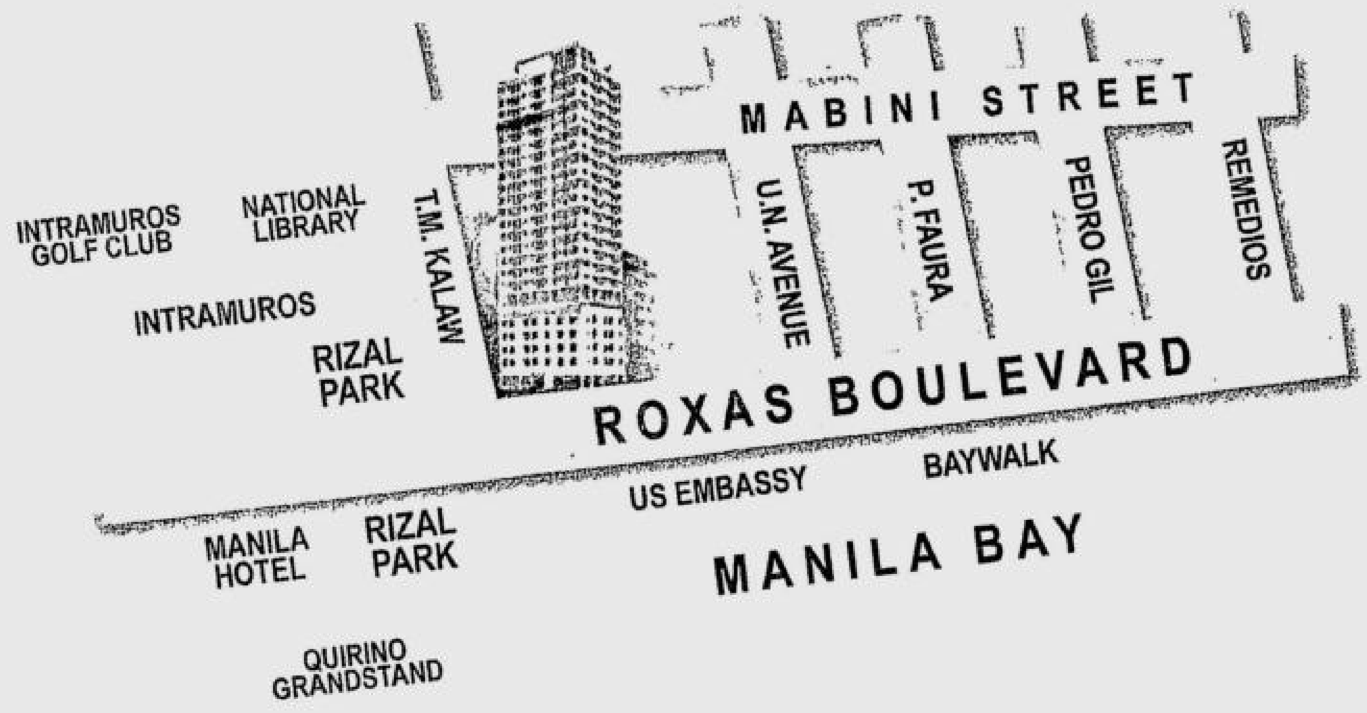
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WHAT'S INSIDE
**Robbers posing as cops** in San Juan, police warn /A26

# San Juan is newest city in Metro

By Kristine L. Alave

THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN Juan is now a city.

A total of 7,732 San Juan residents voted "yes" in Saturday's plebiscite to ratify the bill transforming the municipality into a city, the Commission on Elections said. On the other hand, 848 residents voted "no."

According to the final tally released on Saturday night, only 8,580 San Juan residents trooped to polling stations to cast their votes.

Ma. Liza Torres, San Juan's Comelec officer who oversaw the referendum, said the low turnout—only 11% of the municipality's 72,000 registered voters—was expected.

This was also the trend in previous plebiscites held in other municipalities, she added.

The voting period, which started at 7 a.m. and ended at 3 p.m., was uneventful, Torres said. The Comelec is scheduled to award the certificate of cityhood to San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito in today's flag raising ceremony, city officials said.

The mayor said becoming a city would mean a higher budgetary allocation for San Juan from the national government's Internal Revenue Allotment. Thus, residents could expect more economic activity, infrastructure, and better social services, Ejercito said.

He promised respite from real property tax increases should the residents choose to live in a city.

"Your local government will not impose any increase in the next five years, just like in the past 10 years," Ejercito said in a letter to his town mates prior to the vote.

The municipality of San Juan, located at the heart of Metro Manila, is composed of 21 barangays. According to government data, the municipality registered a gross income of P658.8 million last year, higher than other cities nationwide.

The San Juan cityhood bill was authored by San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora and Senators Alfredo Lim and Jinggoy Estrada, who also served as mayor of the town.

A plebiscite will be held next Sunday in Navotas. Should its residents vote in favor of cityhood, Pateros will be the last remaining municipality in Metro Manila.

# Inquirer partners get free checkups

By Tina G. Santos

SOME 150 NEWSBOYS AND NEWSSTAND vendors were given a free physical checkup in a medical mission conducted by the INQUIRER Saturday.

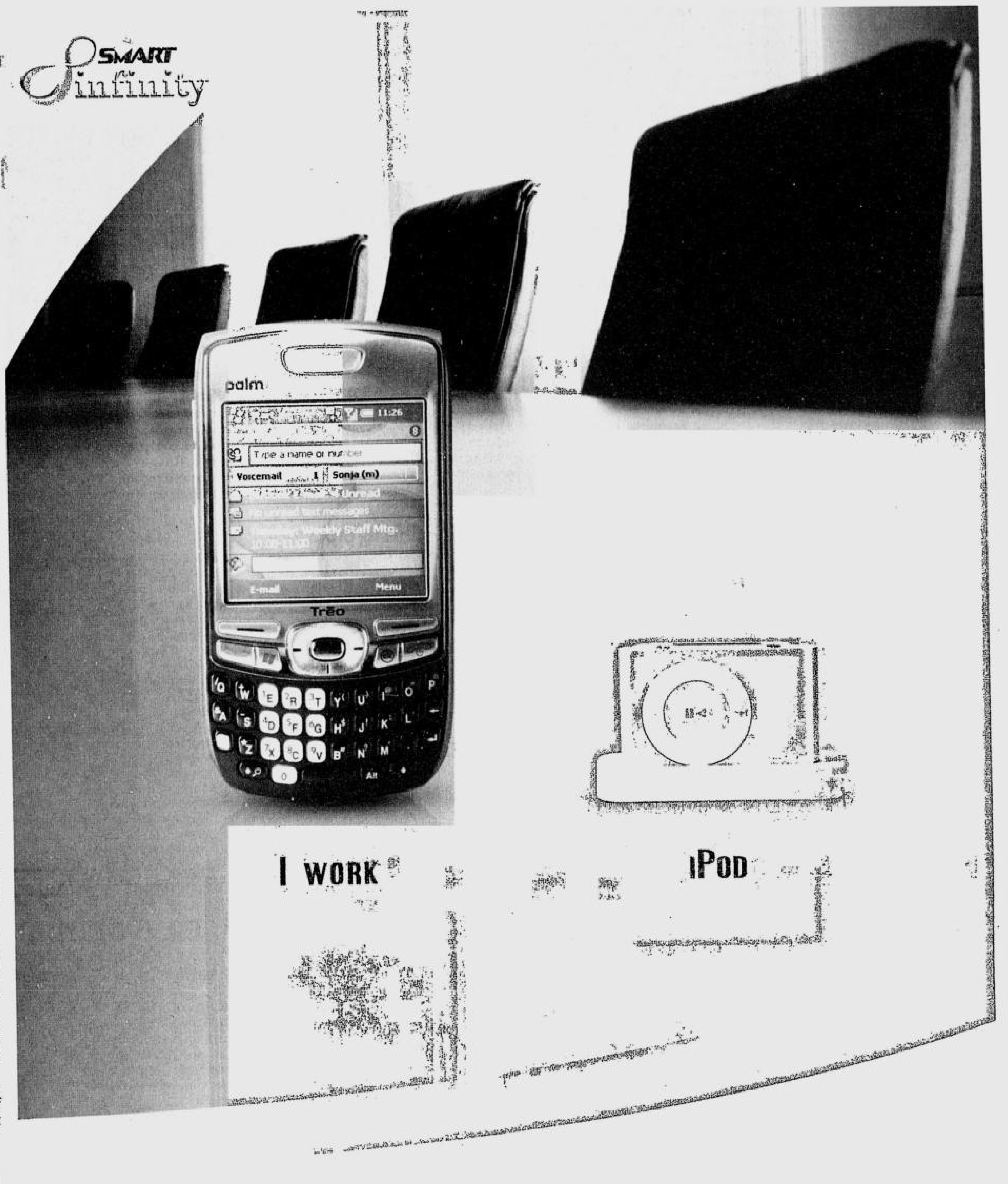
The beneficiaries were from communities in Nagtahan, Manila—the first batch to benefit from a series of medical missions to be conducted by the INQUIRER for its "business partners."

"This is one way of promoting awareness about our social responsibility toward those who have been helping us maintain our position as the country's top newspaper," Edwin Sacramed, INQUIRER circulation area manager, said.

"Newsboys are part of the supply chain that's why we continuously develop exciting programs to ensure that they grow with the organization," he added.

Last March, the INQUIRER launched Project In-vest, the first comprehensive support program created by a newspaper for its partners on the streets. Almost 500 newsboys received P50,000 in accidental insurance and would be entitled to twice-a-year health checkups.

Sacramed said that more medical missions would be conducted every weekend in different areas in Metro Manila.



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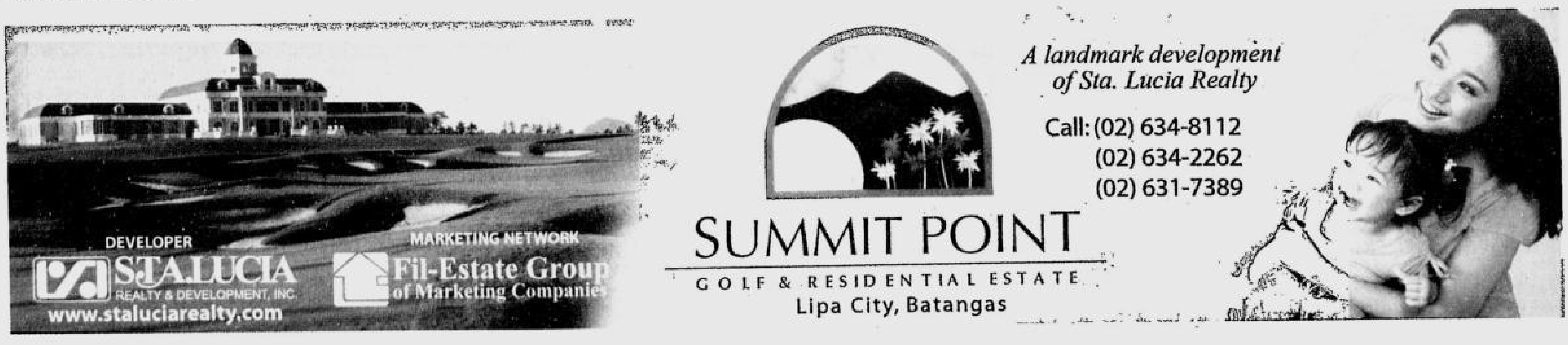
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# MMDA to truck drivers: Avoid MacArthur Highway

By DJ Yap

TRUCK DRIVERS BOUND FOR THE NORTH should take the North Luzon Expressway instead of the MacArthur Highway, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said yesterday, as construction work continued at the Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela City.

Officials of the agency said the alternate route it set up to ease traffic on MacArthur Highway was too narrow for trucks, container vans and other large vehicles carrying heavy loads.

In a statement, MMDA Traffic Operations chief Angelito Vergel de Dios urged drivers of trucks to take the NLEX instead of the congested highway.

The MMDA closed a portion of the MacArthur Highway on April 10 to give way to maintenance and repair work on the Tullahan Bridge, which had shown signs of wear and tear.

Officials from the police, the DPWH and the MMDA initially agreed to close the bridge on March 6 but local government officials asked for a deferment of the plan after test runs caused heavy traffic.

By the time the portion of MacArthur Highway was closed down, field personnel had cleared obstructions to the thoroughfare to help ease the flow of traffic.

But the alternate route could not accommodate the "turning radius" necessary for the smooth passage of big trucks.

DPWH officials said construction on the Tullahan Bridge would be completed within 150 days if everything went as planned.

# Fake cops prey on couriers

By Kristine L. Alave

THE POLICE HAVE WARNED MESSENGERS and couriers against a robbery-holdup syndicate in San Juan whose members pose as policemen and traffic enforcers.

PO1 Alexander Dedumo of the San Juan police told the INQUIRER last week that they have stepped up their investigation of the syndicate after receiving numerous reports of their illegal activities in the area.

"Their group is getting bigger and their victims are increasing," he said.

Dedumo added that members of the group dress up as armed policemen and flag down messengers and collectors on motorcycle for alleged driving violations.

Instead of the full police uniform, however, the gang members wear jackets or baseball caps with the word "Police" on them, the policeman said.

After flagging down their victims, the suspects would then force them into a vehicle and divest them of their cash and possessions.

The group's latest victim, Dedumo said, was Noel S. Quiminales, a courier of the Marikina City-based ABI General Services, a remittance company.

According to Quiminales' statement, two armed men dressed in jackets and a baseball cap with "Police" markings flagged him down on June 12, 12:30 p.m. on L. Gruet corner Wilson streets in Barangay Maytumas, San Juan.

Quiminales, who was driving a Yamaha motorcycle with plate numbers DT125, said one of the men told him that he had committed a driving violation.

The two men then forced him inside a white FX taxi parked nearby, where two more of their cohorts were waiting. Quiminales said he struggled against the suspects but was overpowered.

The suspects took five envelopes, each with P70,000 inside, from Quiminales, as well as his wallet which contained P5,000 in cash and a Nokia 3315 cellphone. The suspects later dropped him off in Galas, Quezon City, the victim said.

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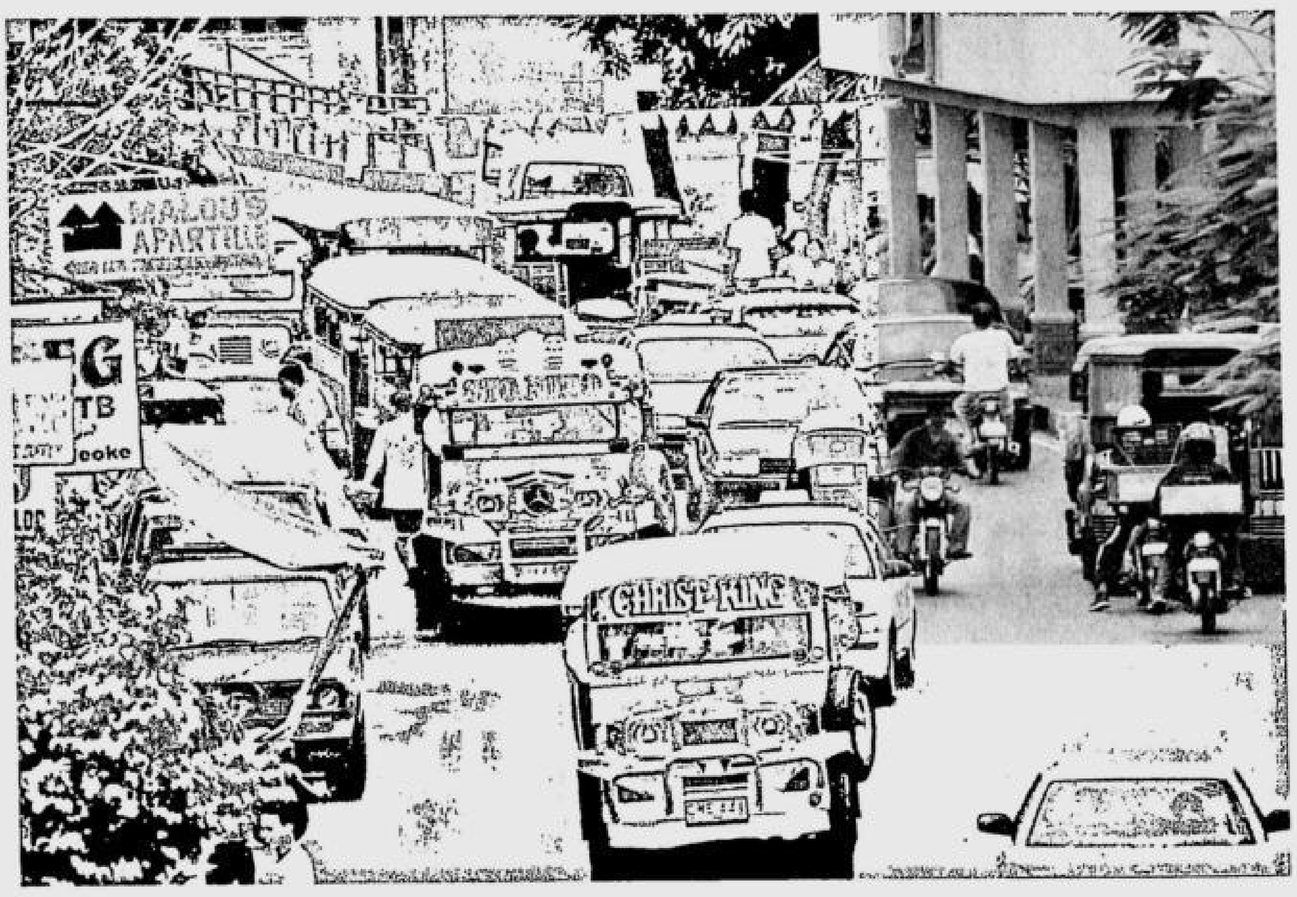
## DID YOU KNOW

REPUBLIC Act No. 9211, also known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003, prohibits smoking in public utility vehicles, in elevators, schools, hospitals, movie houses, malls and other buildings. Violators may be fined up to P10,000 on the third offense. Secondhand smoke can cause respiratory infections, asthma and even cancer.

*Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*



**IS THIS A TERMINAL OR WHAT!**
From Feliciana Paras, Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City: "I take Coronado Street fronting the Hulo ferry station in Mandaluyong City every day on my way to Makati via the Mandaluyong-Makati Bridge, and I always run into a traffic jam caused by jeepneys and tricycles doubled parked on the other side of the street waiting for ferry boat passengers. The road is not that wide but is open to two-way traffic. So you can imagine the pile-up that results when your vehicle meets another coming from the opposite direction. Don't the drivers of these trikes and jeepneys know what problems they are causing? They certainly don't make my day! Attention, Mandaluyong City government officials!"

**METRO Citizen's call**
**0918-8985566**

### Towing problem

*NAGTO-TOW ng mga kotse sa Makati sa 6 a.m. Isang* tow truck *lang, pero tatalian lahat ng kotse, tapos aantayin lang yung* owner *imbes na dalhin agad sa* compound. *Paano na kaming mga nasa* call center *eh 7 a.m. pa nagbubukas mga* parking lot. *Dati, 8 a.m. pa nagto-tow, tapos naging 7 a.m. Sa susunod, 5 a.m. maghahatak na mga yan, kasi wala na silang mahuli. Tumatanggap sila ng bayad sa penalty doon mismo, pero walang resibo. Mayor Binay, aksyon naman dyan!* (Vehicles in Makati are towed at 6 a.m. There is just one tow truck, it hooks up all the vehicles and then just waits for their owners to appear instead of immediately bringing the vehicles to the towing compound. What are we call center workers to do? Parking lots open at 7 a.m. Before, vehicles were towed starting at 8 a.m., then it was moved to 7 a.m. Next time, it might be 5 a.m. because they might run out of violators to apprehend. They accept payment for the penalty on the spot but they don't give you a receipt. Mayor Binay, please take action!)

*LYNDON, 29, Makati City*

### Poor overpass!

SOME of the steel parts of the overpass near the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City have been stolen. *Mukhang* low quality *kasi at madaling baklasin* (The steel seems to be of poor quality and easy to take apart).

*M. REGONIEL, 31, Pasay City*

### No road courtesy

BUSES block the flow of pedestrian traffic on Ortigas Avenue. When will drivers ever learn road courtesy?

*ALLAN DE LA CRUZ, Makati City*

### Dark, unsafe place

NO STREET lights along Marcos highway starting from the area near Robinson Metro East to Ligaya. Many people pass by this area but we do not feel safe. We don't even see where we are going because of the darkness, making this an ideal spot for the commission of crimes. Not to mention the fact that a lot of boys hooked on rugby hang out on the overpass. Hope anyone out there can do something about it.

*MEL DE LA CRUZ,35, Pasig City*

# NBI steps into case of man with many aliases

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation is conducting a background check on Andrew Sia Yu, the man with several aliases who is now detained on various charges, including rape and swindling.

Head agent Arnel Dalumpines, chief of the NBI Special Task Force, said that a check of the bureau database showed that there were cases of maltreatment and car theft against Yu.

"But we have yet to check if the person we have on file and the suspect are one and the same," Dalumpines said, adding that the background check was conducted based on the request of the San Juan police. "They wanted to find out if the suspect has other pending cases before the bureau."

Dalumpines also said that they were checking whether there were cases pending against the other names used by Yu.

The San Juan Police earlier said that they were coordinating with other government agencies, apart from the NBI, to determine the identity of the suspect who has allegedly victimized at least 14 people.

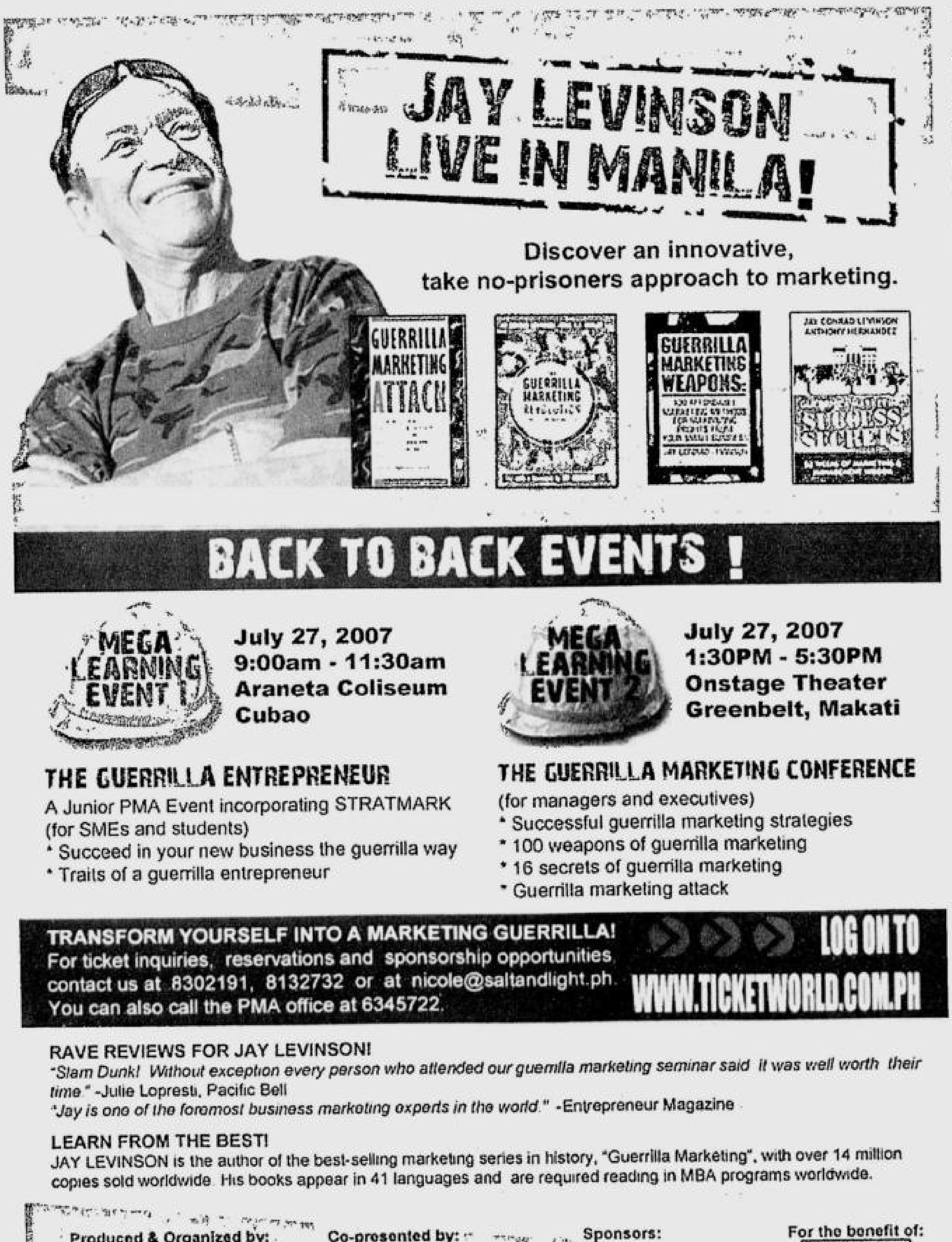
In some instances, the suspect boasted—and carried identification cards—showing he was a relative of prominent personalities like Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and House Speaker Jose de Venecia to gain his victims' trust and entice them to put cash in nonexistent investments.

According to evidence gathered by the San Juan police, the suspect often introduced himself as Mike de Venecia and Ricky Singson to his victims, two of the eight aliases he allegedly used.

He also drove around in vehicles which had license plates with the number "8" which is only issued to congressmen.

Yu was arrested outside a bar on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City after a 22-year old woman lodged complaints of rape and robbery against him.

He also hit a taxi in Mandaluyong City last month as he was driving a car with number "8" license plates.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SUCCESS SECRETS

**OUT WITH DAD**
A man plays with his daughters at the Quezon City Memorial Circle, building a special bond with them on Father's Day.
JOAN BONDOC

## METROBRIEFS

### MPD chief on the way out?

REPORTS circulated yesterday that Manila Police District acting director Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa would be replaced after he was seen moving his things out of his office at the MPD headquarters on UN Avenue into a truck. Reached on his cellular phone, Abarzosa said, "No comment *tayo diyan. Kung papalitan tayo, wala tayong magagawa pero kung hindi, trabaho lang nang trabaho* (I have no comment on that. If I am going to be replaced, there's nothing I can do about it but if not, I will keep on working)," he said. There were reports earlier that Manila Mayor-elect Alfred Lim would appoint a new police chief to replace Abarzosa who has been identified with outgoing Mayor Lito Atienza. Atienza earlier defended his police chief after Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno ordered his relief following the hostage-taking incident involving 26 children inside a bus in Manila on March 28. The suspension was later put on hold.

*Allison W. Lopez*

### Mass bloodletting

TWENTY-NINE members of the New Manila Heights Rotary Club participated in a mass bloodletting last June 9 as part of their commitment to the Philippine National Red Cross Quezon City chapter. Club president Francisco Boyet Alfonso was among the donors. The activity was in line with the agreement between PNRC and Rotary Club for the recruitment of 25 qualified and dedicated blood donors to allow the PNRC to maintain a stable blood supply in preparation for major emergencies.

# Fatah tightens grip on West Bank; US vows aid

JERUSALEM—THE FATAH FACtion, crushed last week in Gaza, moved to consolidate control of the West Bank on Saturday, seizing public buildings, including the parliament, and preparing to swear in a new government that did not include its rival, Hamas.

The United States, meantime, worked swiftly to shore up the weakened Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas. The American consul general, Jacob Walles, met with a top Fatah official Saturday and said, now that Hamas was not part of the government, the United States was prepared to restart direct aid to the Palestinians—even if the new government's control was limited to the West Bank.

"I expect that we are going to be engaged with this government," Walles was quoted as telling The Associated Press after the meeting. He said he expected an announcement about the aid to be made this week. The United States and other Western governments cut off direct aid to the Palestinian Authority after Hamas won legislative elections last year.

On Saturday morning, hundreds of Fatah supporters tried to flee Gaza through the Erez crossing into Israel. Many made it through, according to witnesses and Israeli radio, but others scattered after Hamas gunmen, who had set up roadblocks to prevent people from leaving, fired over their heads to scare them away.

"We all ran away after Qassam shot at us," said Said Badawi, 23, a driver who said he was at the checkpoint at the time and who was referring to Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas.

In the West Bank, armed Fatah supporters stormed the parliament in Ramallah as well as government buildings in Hebron and Nablus that the two groups had shared as part of the now-disbanded unity government. There were also wire service reports that buildings controlled by Hamas, including charity and political offices, were seized.

The seizures in the West Bank seemed to solidify the split between Palestinians after the fighting ended Thursday with Hamas, an Islamic group, in full control of the crowded coastal strip of Gaza. They also seemed to raise the risk of violence spreading to the West Bank, where the secular and nationalist Fatah is dominant but Hamas retains pockets of strength and some armed fighters, though the Israeli Army keeps them largely underground.

On Thursday, Abbas dismissed the Hamas-led unity government amid the fighting that led to Fatah's virtual expulsion from Gaza. On Saturday, he continued work to assemble a new government that would control only the West Bank, which contains an estimated 2.5 million Palestinians, compared with 1.5 million in Gaza.

*NYT*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### N. Korea invites UN atomic inspectors to discuss shutdown

SEOUL—North Korea Saturday invited UN atomic inspectors to discuss the shutdown of its reactor, saying a banking dispute with the United States which had blocked a nuclear disarmament pact is almost over. The country's atomic energy chief, Ri Je Son, wrote to the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, about procedures for verifying the shutdown, the state Korean Central News Agency reported. "He in the letter noted that a working-level delegation of the IAEA has been invited to visit the DPRK (North Korea) as it is confirmed that the process of de-freezing the funds of the DPRK at the Banco Delta Asia (BDA) in Macau has reached its final phase," the agency said. Ri, director general of the General Department of Atomic Energy, asked the IAEA to discuss verifying and monitoring "the suspension of the operations" of Yongbyon under the Feb. 13 six-nation agreement. North Korea staged its first nuclear test last October. It has said previously it would start honoring the February pact as soon as it receives $25 million in funds which had been frozen in BDA since 2005 at US instigation.

*AFP*

### Vietnam reports first bird flu death since 2005

HANOI—Vietnamese state media on Saturday announced that a man had died of bird flu, the country's first human death from the disease since November 2005. The 20-year-old from Ha Tay province, bordering Hanoi, died of the H5N1 strain on Sunday, June 10, at the capital's National Contagious and Tropical Diseases Hospital, said the official Vietnam News Agency. The latest death brings to 43 the number of people who have died of the human form of bird flu in Vietnam.

*AFP*

### Maid's 15-story escape bid goes awry in Malaysia

SHAMELIN

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian firemen came to the rescue of a desperate Indonesian maid clinging to a rope 12 stories above the ground after she took fright while trying to escape from an abusive employer, newspapers said on Sunday. Shamelin, 33, fashioned a rope from pieces of cloth tied together, threw it out of a 15th story window, and started to climb down, but froze in terror when she realized how high up she was, the New Straits Times reported. "My employer is a woman in her 30s and I live alone with her in the unit on the 15th floor," the paper quoted Shamelin, from Sumatra, as saying. "She has a bad temper. If I make a mistake, she will starve me.

She has hurt me so many times by beating me," the maid said. Following months of ill-treatment, the weeping Shamelin said she could not bear it anymore and decided to run away after her employer locked her in the flat and went out, according to the woman's usual custom.

*Reuters*

# China nabs slave-labor boss amid uproar

**A CHINESE** brick kiln worker toils at a brick yard in Shenyang, in northeast China's Liaoning province, June 17. AFP

BEIJING—CHINESE POLICE HAVE captured a man accused of holding workers in virtual slavery, state media reported on Sunday amid a national uproar over teenagers and men forced to work in brutal, furnace-like brick kilns.

Heng Tinghan is accused of holding workers in a kiln in Hongtong county in the northern province of Shanxi. One worker died after being beaten by one of Heng's helpers, and police rescued 31, thin and scarred.

Heng has become a central villain in a national drama over possibly hundreds or more teenage and adult "slaves" forced or cheated into gruelling labor in kilns, mines and foundries across Shanxi and neighboring Henan province.

When caught in the central province of Hubei, Heng apologized for mistreating workers but denied blame for the death of the mentally impaired man, a Hubei newspaper reported.

"I felt it was a fairly small thing, just hitting and swearing at the workers and not giving them wages," Heng said, according to the Shiyan Evening News. "The dead man had nothing to do with me."

The scandal has tarnished the ruling Communist Party's promises to build a "harmonious" society with improved rights and income for the nation's hundreds of millions of poor farmers.

The China Youth Daily called the coercion a "shocking disgrace" exposing officials' failure to enforce labor laws.

State television has reported that owners of the primitive brick-making operations ran them like prisons with fierce dogs and beatings to deter escapes.

A sweeping police crackdown in Shanxi and Henan had so far freed 568 people from kilns and other work sites, including 22 under the age of 18 in Shanxi, Xinhua reported.

Local news reports said Heng had coerced or cheated the workers to the site from March 2006, forcing them to work 16-hour days and live off mostly steamed bread. *Reuters*

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## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

for the

### CREDIT RISK ENGINE SYSTEM (CRES) PROJECT

The *Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)* is conducting a public bidding for the procurement of a credit risk modeling and rating/scoring solution for the CRES Project.

The primary purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of an automated, centralized, fully integrated, "commercial-off-the shelf" credit risk modeling and rating/scoring solution of the Bank, which includes the following components:

- Software application, licenses and other software components (DBMS; APIs; connectors; middleware; etc.)
- Various technical and development tools

Furthermore, the CRES solution provider shall also be responsible for the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) process, that is, the extraction of all required data from the different source systems, data transformation and data loading to the target database(s). The solution provider shall also be responsible for the following requisite activities: source to target mapping, data availability and quality assessment, design and development of the ETL routines and system integration testing of the ETL routines. The solution provider has the option to use the Bank's existing ETL tool - Informatica PowerCenter 7.1.2 to facilitate the ETL process.

The proposed system should be compliant to Basel II and other regulatory requirements of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

To ensure the highest degree of fit of the CRES solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope likewise covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities like change management planning and communication, the review of *"As Is"* processes, business process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the *"To Be"* processes, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the required organizational and process changes.

The proposed solution should be implemented in Production within a maximum of twelve (12) months from the award of the contract.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and processes such as data conversion/migration, systems integration, project management, system development lifecycle, change management, technology transfer (training and documentation), and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the system has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the effectiveness of the system.

**This is a procurement for Consulting Services and subject to Public Bidding and Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (85% Technical and 15% Financial).**

Interested parties may secure the *Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements*, ***upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and upon signing of a Confidentiality Agreement***, from ***18-22 June 2007***, during regular office hours (between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.), from:

**THE SECRETARIAT**
Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone : +63 2 405-7123
Fax Number : +63 2 528-8588
Contact Person : Alan V. Bornas
Head - Technology Management Group
Email Address : **itbac@mail.landbank.com**

For those parties who will secure the *Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements*, there will be a briefing on the Eligibility and Short-listing process which will be held at the LANDBANK Plaza on June 25, 2007.

The Letter of Intent, the accomplished *Evaluation Forms (List of Projects* and *Project Team Information and Requirements Checklist) for Short-listing* and the rest of the *Eligibility Requirements* must be submitted by hand not later than ***06 July 2007, 3:00 p.m.*** to the aforementioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check shall be allowed to participate in the bidding procedure.

The IT-BAC shall draw up a short-list of firms from those who have been determined as eligible and the number of short-listed firms shall not exceed five (5), in accordance with the following criteria:

- Gartner's Evaluation
- Fit to Functional and Non-Functional and Other Requirements
- Implementation Methodology
- Vendor Experience, Expertise and Capability
- Personnel Qualifications
- Support Base
- Vendor's Profitability

The short-listed bidders, upon receipt of formal notice, may secure the *Bidding Documents (e.g. Terms of Reference, Requirements Definition Document, etc.)* ***upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P17,500.00)*** from ***23-25 July 2007***. For all qualified parties, the *Pre-Bid Conference* shall be held on ***30 July 2007 (Monday), 10:00 a.m.***, at the aforementioned address.

The *Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)* is ***Forty-five Million Pesos (Php 45,000,000.00)***, **inclusive of all taxes and three (3) year maintenance,** which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

**(Sgd.) JOSE C. NOGRALES**
Chairman IT-BAC

(PDI–June 18, 2007)

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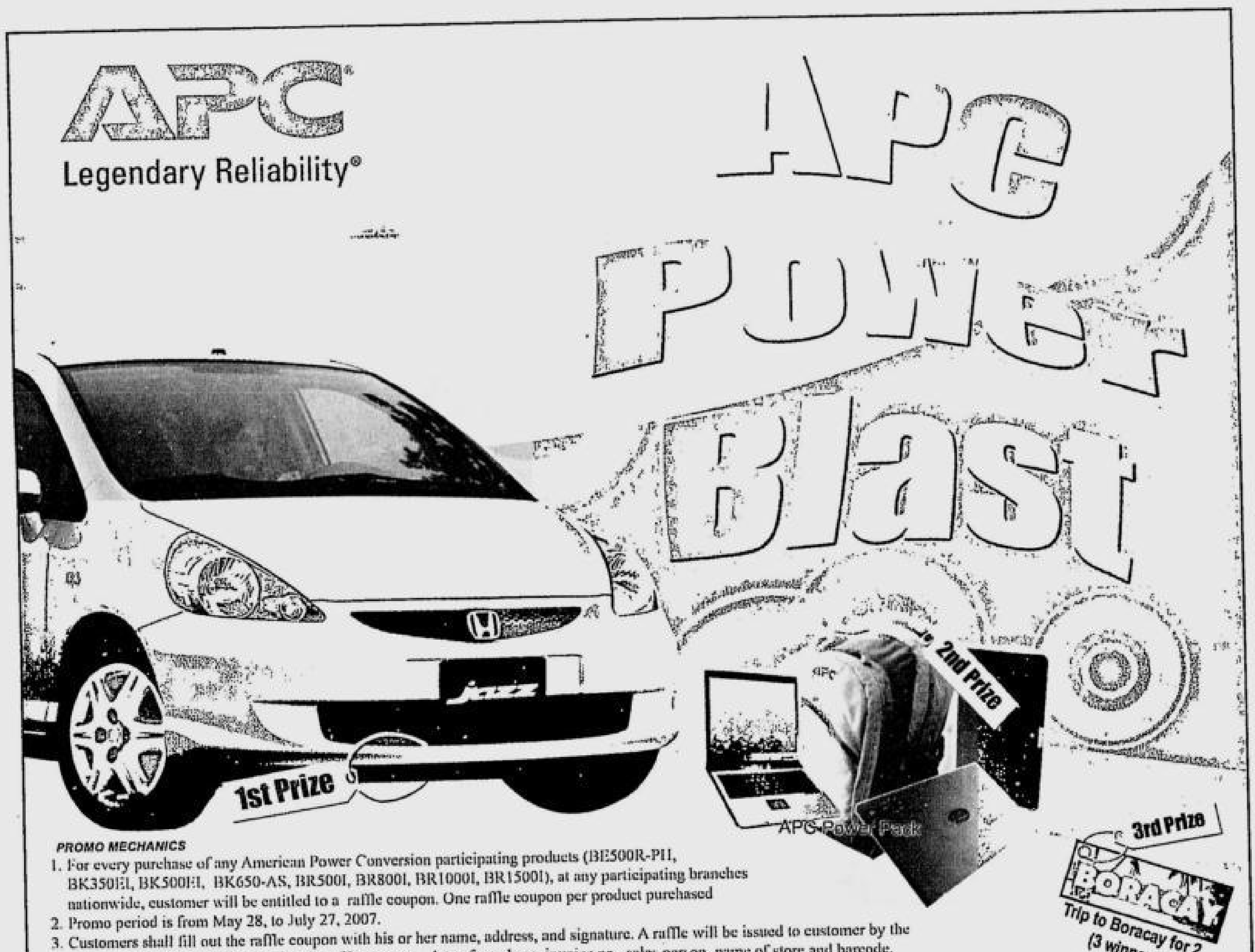

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1. For every purchase of any American Power Conversion participating products (BE500R-PH, BK350EI, BK500EI, BK650-AS, BR500I, BR800I, BR1000I, BR1500I), at any participating branches nationwide, customer will be entitled to a raffle coupon. One raffle coupon per product purchased
2. Promo period is from May 28, to July 27, 2007.
3. Customers shall fill out the raffle coupon with his or her name, address, and signature. A raffle will be issued to customer by the sales person with the following data in raffle coupon: date of purchase, invoice no., sales person, name of store and barcode.
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| 2nd Prize | APC power pack (Laptop,Nokia N70, APC Batteries) | One(1) Winner |
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5. Deadline for dropping of entries is on July 27, 2007
6. Grand Draw will be held at American Power Conversion head office at Unit 2302, Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue Ortigas center, Pasig City on August 6, 2007
7. Participants can only win once. Should participant be drawn more than once, he/she will get the prize with a higher value
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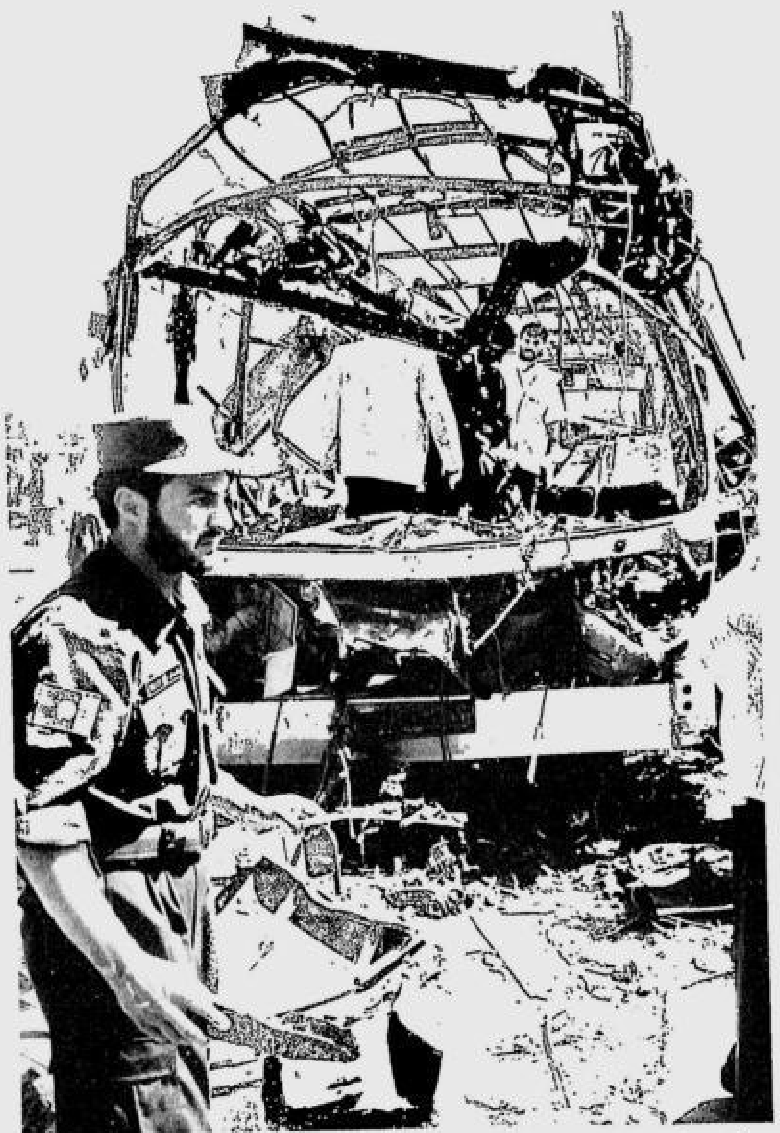
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2332 Series of 2007

# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



**INVESTIGATORS** search for evidence around the wreckage of a police bus at the site of a bomb blast in Kabul, June 17 which killed more than 35 people. The extremist Taliban claimed responsibility. AFP

## Suicide bomber blows up Kabul bus, kills 35

KABUL—A POWERFUL BOMB RIPPED THROUGH a police bus in the Afghan capital Sunday killing up to 35 people, police said, in one of the deadliest attacks in the city since the Taliban regime was toppled in 2001.

Police officials gave different death tolls after the blast, with the city's criminal investigation department chief Alishah Paktiawal saying that 35 police officers and bystanders were killed.

This would make it the deadliest rebel attack in Afghanistan since the fundamentalist Taliban regime was driven from power and started an insurgency that relies on terror tactics similar to those used by extremists in Iraq.

"Among those wounded were two Japanese, a Korean and two Pakistani nationals who were perhaps passing by the area when the explosion took place," Kabul police chief Gen. Esmatullah Dauladzai said.

The 45-seater bus, which had been taking officers to a police training academy, was reduced to a skeleton of blackened and mangled metal. Body parts and bits of human flesh were flung across a wide area.

The blast struck outside the police headquarters in a crowded part of the city center that is near a busy market. Two minibuses were damaged nearby and witnesses said bystanders may also have been hit.

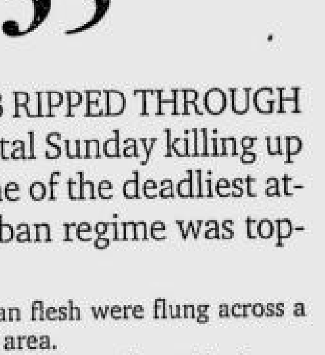
Paktiawal first said that the bomb was inside the bus but later said it may have been a suicide bombing.

"It is the work of terrorists, al-Qaida and murderers of the people," Paktiawal said.

The insurgent Taliban movement, which is allied with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility. "It was a suicide car bomb," spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said.

The attack comes a day after a suicide car bomb blast in the west of the city killed three people, in the fifth such bombing inside Kabul this year. *AFP*

## Iran slams knighthood title for Salman Rushdie



**RUSHDIE**

TEHRAN, IRAN—IRAN ON SUNday condemned Britain's decision to grant a knighthood to author Salman Rushdie, who was forced into hiding for a decade after the Islamic republic's spiritual leader ordered his assassination.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Ali Hosseini said the decision to grant Britain's highest honor to Rushdie, who wrote the controversial novel "The Satanic Verses," was an insult to the Muslim world.

"Awarding a person who is among the most detested characters in the Islamic society is obvious proof of anti-Islamism by ranking British officials," said Hosseini during his weekly press conference.

Rushdie went into hiding after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini issued a 1989 fatwa, or religious edict, ordering Muslims to kill the author because his novel "The Satanic Verses" allegedly insulted Islam.

The Iranian government declared in 1998 that it would not support but could not rescind the fatwa. Rushdie says he receives a "sort of Valentine's card" from Iran each year on Feb. 14 letting him know the country has not forgotten the vow to end his life.

"This (award) showed that the movement of insulting Muslims was not accidental but was a planned and organized move that enjoyed support of some Western countries," said Hosseini.

Britain announced its decision to award Rushdie a knighthood on Saturday, along with CNN reporter Christiane Amanpour, a KGB double agent and several others. *AP*

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

▣ **Woods** trails leader Baddeley/A30

SPORTS

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# Another close shave for SMC-RP cagers

DAN Seigle fouls out in key stretch.

BELGRADE, SERBIA—SAN MIGUEL-PILIPINAS dropped another close game Saturday, this time against Serbian Division 1 powerhouse KK Novi Sad, 88-85, at the Sport Ecko Sportski Centar.

The Nationals, priming up for the Fiba Asia championship in Tokushima, Japan, next month, controlled the game three-fourths of the way until Danny Seigle fouled out with five minutes left and SMC-RP ahead, 77-74.

The Serbs seized the opportunity to string up five straight points capped by a 3-pointer from 6-foot-9 power forward Miroslav Radenkovic that gave the hosts a 79-77 edge.

Back-to-back offensive fouls against Asi Taulava allowed Novi Sad to increase the lead to 84-80 with two minutes remaining.

After a timeout, Mark Caguioa completed a 3-point play to cut the deficit to one. A steal in the next play set up Gabe Norwood for a breakaway dunk but he was called for traveling.

Another steal saw Norwood setting up Taulava for an uncontested layup, but the 6-9 center failed to convert and 6-10 Ilija Zolotic hit two free throws with 28 ticks left, 86-83.

Jimmy Alapag and Renren Ritualo missed open 3-pointers in the closing seconds.

"Again, a disappointing loss because we had the opportunity to win," said RP coach Chot Reyes, who rued the absence of Kerby Raymundo due to a case of food poisoning, the injury to Tony Dela Cruz (strained back) and the fouling out of Seigle.

"We just couldn't finish the job."

Novi Sad played minus its two imports, 7-0 Charles Chris and guard Jerome Lagarnge.

Mark Caguioa scored the last five points of the third quarter as the Nationals led, 66-57, with Norwood and Ritualo keeping the Serbs at bay in the fourth until Seigle fouled out.

It was the third game for the Nationals, who took an 82-77 loss from Division B top team KK Usce Vizura Friday, after debuting with a 97-79 drubbing of Serbian Division A team Mega Ishrana Thursday.

**The scores:**

**NOVI SAD 88**—Sutalo 27, Tomasevic 15, Radenkovic 14, Zolotic 11, Pap 8, Durasevic 8, Bunic 4, Gogic 1.

**SMC-PILIPINAS 85**—Caguioa 20, Seigle 19, Norwood 13, Taulava 10, Hontiveros 8, Helterbrand 6, Penissi 5, Alapag 3, Ritualo 2.

**Quarters:** 16-18, 33-41, 57-66, 88-85

## WORLD SUMMIT OF POOL

# Pagulayan rules roost

**FILIPINO ALEX PAGULAYAN downed American Shane Van Boening, 7-5, Sunday to win the fourth annual World Summit of Pool at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.**

The 29-year-old Toronto, Ontario-based native of Cabagan, Isabela, captured the top prize of US$12,000 (about P560,000) in clinching his second major title for the year.

Pagulayan also dominated the 17th Japan 9-Ball Open last March in Tokyo, besting Taiwanese Ro Li-wen, 9-6, in the finals to nail the top prize worth about P675,000.

Van Boening, the 2007 Enjoypool.com BCA runner-up and reigning Predator World 10-ball bankshot champion, had earlier whipped Pagulayan in their hot-seat match, 11-4, to reach the finals.

But Pagulayan gained another shot at Van Boening by topping Puyat Sports stablemate Francisco "Django" Bustamante with a similar 7-5 victory in the losers' bracket.

Pagulayan also beat Bustamante, 11-3, in the fifth match of the winners' bracket while Van Boening frustrated another Filipino, Warren Kiamco, 11-7.

Bustamante stayed alive by nipping Lee Chenman, 11-9, while Kiamco overpowered Tony Chohan, 11-6, in the one-loss side.

A 7-4 win over Kiamco kept Bustamante in the running before he faltered against Pagulayan in their rematch in the losers' side.

Other Filipino campaigners in the event were Filipino pool legend Jose "Amang" Parica, Marlon Manalo, Dennis Orcollo, Al Lapena, Edwin Montal and Danny Petralba.

Pagulayan, whose major victories include the 2004 World Pool Championship and the 2005 US Open 9-Ball, finished third in the 2007 Predator World 10-Ball. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

**THE LION ROARS:** Alex Pagulayan fights back from the losers' bracket to beat top American.

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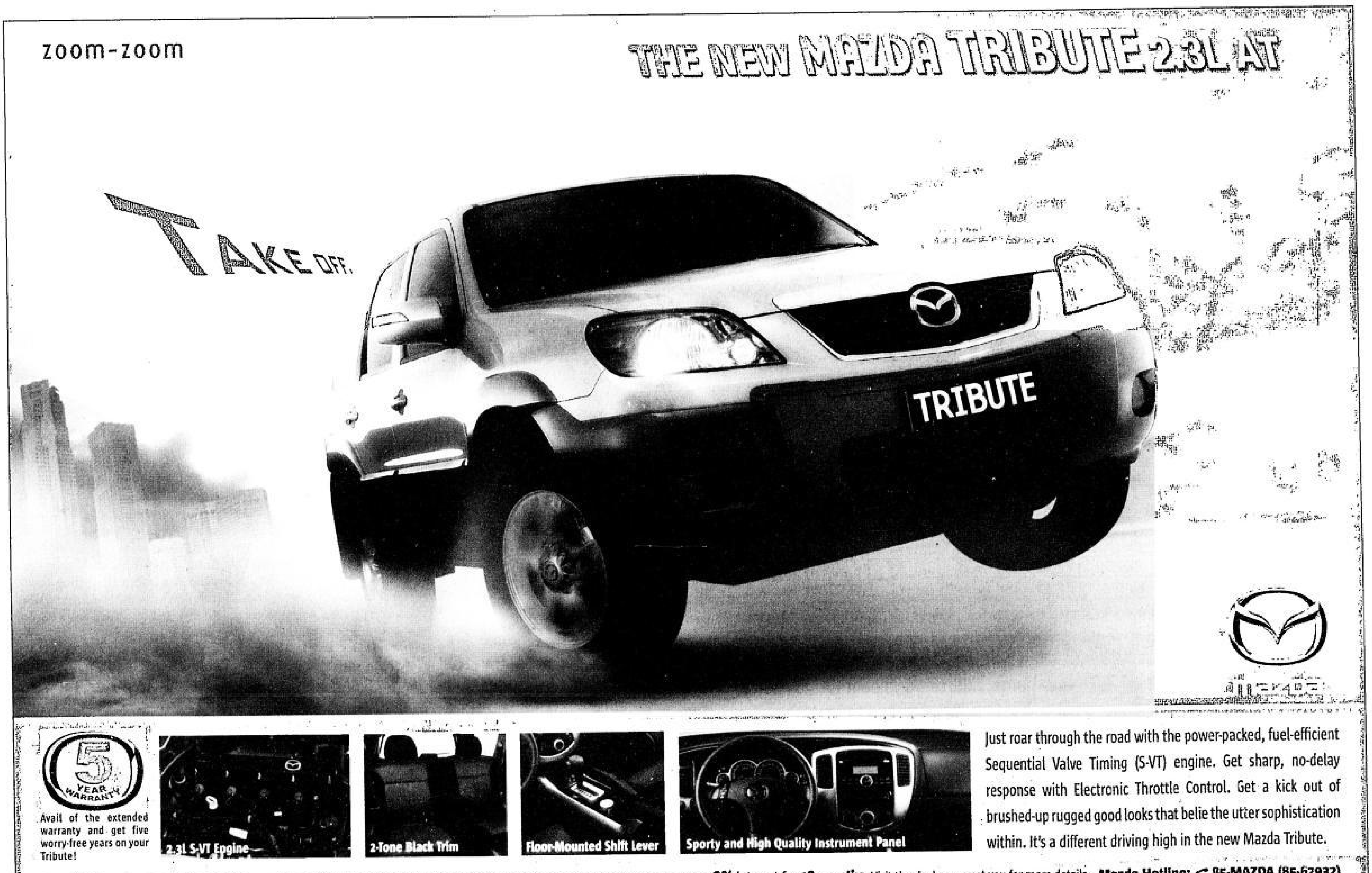

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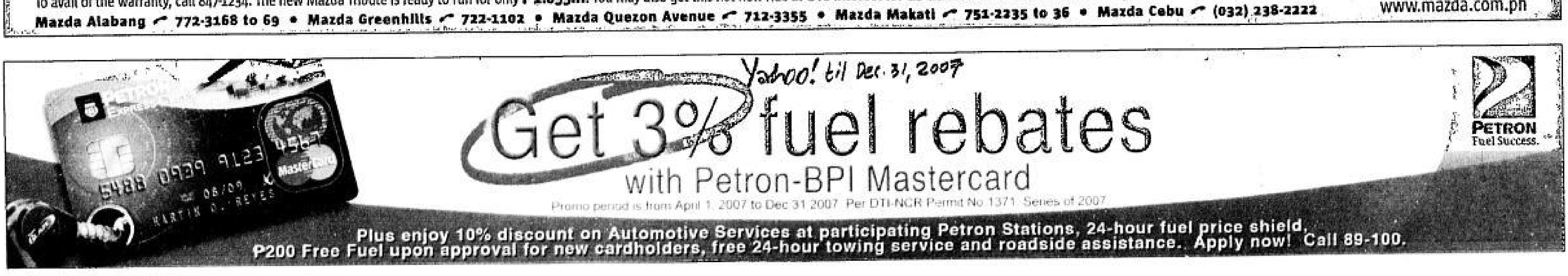

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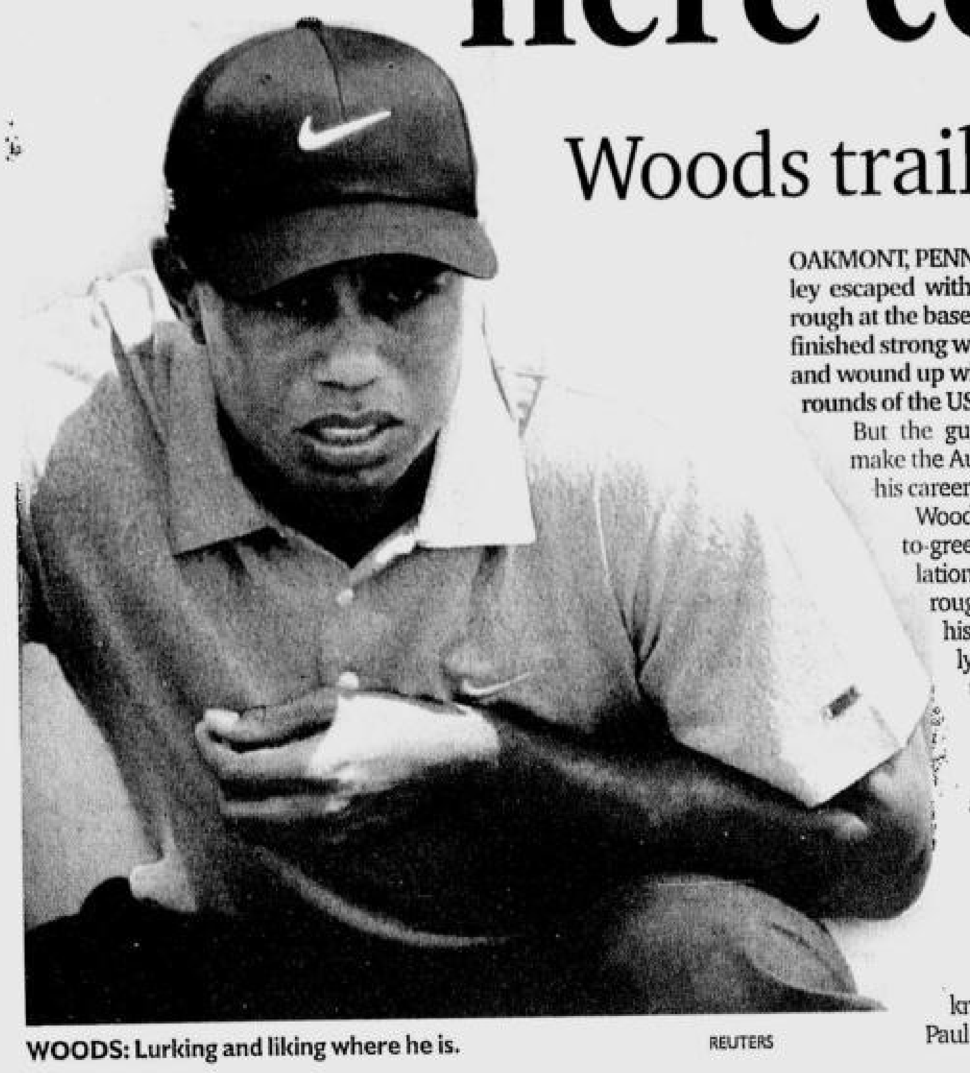
# Here comes Tiger

## Woods trails leader Baddeley by 2



**WOODS:** Lurking and liking where he is. REUTERS

OAKMONT, PENNSYLVANIA—AARON BADDELEY escaped with an amazing par from deep rough at the base of a bunker on the 17th hole, finished strong with a birdie for an even-par 70 and wound up with a two-shot lead after three rounds of the US Open on Saturday.

But the guy two shots behind him will make the Australian face the biggest test of his career: Tiger Woods.

Woods was nearly perfect from tee-to-green, hitting every green in regulation until he had to lay up from the rough on the 18th hole and took his only bogey for a 69, one of only two rounds under par even though Oakmont Country Club's fearsome greens showed a softer side.

Woods, who has never won a major when trailing going into the final round, will be playing in the last group at a major for the second time this year. He was one shot behind at the Masters and tied for second.

"I've been there before, and I know what it takes," Woods said.

Paul Casey shot a 72 and was at 5-over 215 with Stephen Ames (73), Justin Rose (73) and Bubba Watson (75), who made a triple bogey from the left side of the ninth green but steadied himself with pars and a lone bogey the rest of the way.

The other subpar round belonged to Steve Stricker, who holed out from 74 yards for birdie on the 18th hole for a 68 to give himself a chance at 6-over 216, tied with former champion Jim Furyk (70) and 36-hole leader Angel Cabrera, who slowly lost ground until he chopped his way to a bogey-bogey finish for a 76.

Baddeley won the Australian Open as an 18-year-old amateur in 1999 by holding off Greg Norman and Colin Montgomerie, saying then that his goal was to become better than Woods. He won the Australian Open a year later as a pro, but found detours in America, struggling to get his card and picking up his first US tour victory only last year.

But he showed impressive poise on an Oakmont course that played tamer with accessible hole locations and greens that had been watered three times since Friday afternoon.

As the leaders began to lose ground, Baddeley surged ahead. He made three birdies in a four-hole stretch, culminating with a 6-foot putt on the 13th hole that stretched his lead to three. AP

# Hamilton grabs US GP pole; Alonso 2nd

INDIANAPOLIS—LEWIS HAMILTON OUTRAN McLaren teammate Fernando Alonso and Ferrari drivers Felipe Massa and Kimi Raikkonen on Saturday, capturing the No. 1 starting spot for the US Grand Prix and his second consecutive pole.

"Getting my second pole is even better than last week," said Hamilton, the first black driver in Formula One history. "When the team told me I had P1, I again screamed in my helmet and just through the whole lap."

After Massa and Raikkonen took the top two spots briefly with about four minutes to go in the 15-minute final qualifying session, Alonso jumped to the top with a lap of one minute, 13.500 seconds on the 4.19-kilometer, 13-turn Indianapolis Motor Speedway circuit.

Seconds later, Hamilton took the top spot at 1:13.385 and stayed out front to the end, posting a final lap of 1:13.331 to wrap up his second pole in only his seventh try.

The pole was unexpected since Alonso had been faster than Hamilton in two days of practice, but Hamilton, who keeps one-upping himself, said it was just hard work paying off.

"I was quite surprised (to win the pole), to be honest, mainly because it's my first time here," the young Englishman said. "I haven't really been performing as good as Fernando has. But, going into qualifying, just throughout the whole weekend I'm always trying to find that little bit more, little bit more. Experience is everything here. The more I get out on the track, the faster I get."

That's bad news for both his teammate, whom he leads by eight points in the season standings, and Massa and Raikkonen, who hope to challenge the McLaren drivers on Sunday. *AP*

# Marciano, Esplana power St. Joseph

MARCIANO

JANINE MARCIANO AND CRYSTLE ESPLANA provided the scoring punch for St. Joseph College in a crucial 25-22, 25-15 victory over Roosevelt College that boosted the Quezon City squad's chances of making the quarterfinals of the Shakey's girls volleyball league at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym recently.

"I'm really working hard on my game especially since things are difficult for us because we have a lot of first-timers in our team," said Marciano, who scored 16 kills to lead the St. Joseph charge.

But the road to the quarters will be tough for a relatively new St. Joseph squad.

"We can no longer afford to lose in our remaining games if we want to reach the quarterfinals," said St. Joseph coach Abner Eugenio, whose wards improved to a 2-1 card while dropping Roosevelt to 2-3.

"I only have two hitters working with me, Janine and Patricia Tolentino and the rest are first-timers," said Esplana. "Our other hitter, Rose Ann Pugay, is no longer with the team that's why it's harder for us. But we are happy we still won."

OTHER RESULTS: Colegio San Agustin def. Assumption-Antipolo, 25-7, 25-7; UST def. PIOC, 25-20, 25-18; Hope Christian def. Holy Family, 25-1, 25-3; Ernesto Rondon def. St. Francis of Assisi, 25-9, 25-17

# Did the BAP merit outright ejection?

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines stepped out of bounds and was promptly punished by the international basketball federation (Fiba) last week.

The Fiba officially declared the BAP defunct.

This meant that all BAP transactions with the Fiba would henceforth be rendered null and void

The Fiba, in fact, minced no word in telling the BAP where it belongs—deep in the dustbin—as far as the world basketball body is concerned.

* * *

**For the record, BAP president Go Teng Kok had written the Fiba to report the total lack of a visible national basketball development program in the set-up of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.**

**The SBP, in case there are still who don't know what it represents, is the body that was officially tasked by the Fiba to take over the functions of the BAP, formerly the governing body of Philippine basketball.**

**For having sent the letter, the BAP received what clearly amounted to as a stinging reprimand.**

**The BAP was advised that it has no business whatsoever dipping its fingers in Philippine basketball affairs.**

* * *

The Fiba also sternly told BAP never to deal with it again as it should transact and do business solely with the SBP.

That move amounted to an outright ejection, no matter how you look at it.

No, actually, it was more shameful and damaging.

After ejection, there's a chance for the punished party to participate in future undertakings.

Sorry, in the case of the BAP, it was handed a cold-blooded verdict.

It was told it could no longer return to rejoin the league!

* * *

**Naturally, there was instant applause.**

**One concerned female basketball devotee went to church to thank God.**

**She celebrated and said the Fiba "finally saw the light."**

**OK, it was true that the BAP had figured in several flagrant violations in the past.**

**It's also easy to read political motivation in that letter—said to have been prodded by BAP sec-gen Graham Lim—sent to Fiba big boss Patrick Baumann.**

**But listen, please. Politics or no politics, that letter by the BAP to the Fiba was not exactly without merit.**

**The letter was, pure and simple, a timely warning.**

* * *

Why? Well, nothing could be truer.

What the BAP had told the Fiba had been said here before.

The Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas has remained without any visible, effective national development program.

It also appears that the SBP has dedicated all its richly funded efforts to the formation of a strong national Philippine team in a bid to qualify for next year's Beijing Olympics.

Well, nothing wrong with that.

But now that the SBP appears inexorably set to put up what should be called the National Fil-American basketball team, it's about time they look the way of the poor natives among future RP squad aspirants.

There's always heroic gladness in being purely national.

* * *

*(MUST-SEE: Try to witness at the PhilSports field this afternoon how Singapore fights to avenge its loss to the RP women's football team last week. Ms Cathy Rivilla calls on fans to support the national squad. Game time is 4 p.m.... Tomorrow, don't miss "Musikalusugan," a benefit concert for the community-based alternative medicine training program of the Phil. Center for Traditional and Alternative Medicine at the Conspiracy Cafe on Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight... Early tomorrow at the Luneta parade ground, the first Philippine Human Flag: Petal and confetti shower, flying of balloons and Espirituwal Rigodon de Amor, in honor of National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal.)*

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# RP lady booters try to sweep Singaporeans today

**GAME TODAY** (*PhilSports field*)
6 p.m.—RP vs Singapore

A SHUTOUT VICTORY AGAINST Singapore doesn't satisfy the Philippine women's football squad.

"This is the first official match of the team and we're still trying to adjust to each other," said skipper Marielle Benitez. "Hopefully, we can play even better."

The retooled national lady booters aim to sweep the Lionesses in their two-game goodwill series at 6 p.m. today at the PhilSports football field.

"There's more pressure now," the 25-year-old Benitez said. "We have a lot of new teammates who do not have much experience as our last team."

It seemed, though, that many were willing to step up.

On Saturday night, substitutes Elisa Benitez and Edna Agravante accounted for two goals as the Philippines outclassed Singapore, 3-0.

Fil-Australian Nenita Collentes-Burgess, who joined the squad only a couple of months ago, also emerged as a relentless defender.

The victory came even without head coach Marlon Maro, who had a previous official engagement. "It showed how well prepared the team was," said team manager Ernest Nierras.

Singapore, fielding the squad that will see action in the 2007 Southeast Asian Games, vowed to make a few tactical adjustments this time. *Jasmine W. Payo*

# Pacquiao tug-of-war could end in 'sharing'

THE TWO PARTIES ENGAGED IN A LEGAL war to gain promotional rights to the fights of Filipino ring sensation Manny Pacquiao have agreed to look into the possibility of a "sharing" scheme—a significant development that could seal the deal for lucrative fights in the next two years.

If Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions settle on a shared promotional rights scheme, Pacquiao could find himself in a cash-rich epic rematch with Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera this year and two more bouts that will ice an intriguing trilogy against reigning world super featherweight king Juan Manuel Marquez next year.

The legal battle, however, prevents Pacquiao, currently inked with Arum's Top Rank, from setting a date with either of the two Mexicans, who are under contract with Oscar De La Hoya's GBP.

But after a day-long court-mandated mediation yesterday, both GBP and Top Rank agreed to work toward a final resolution of the promotional impasse. They will resume talks on Monday (Tuesday, RP time).

"Those close to the [Pacquiao Peace Talks] are saying that there has been some talk of the two giant companies 'sharing' rights to Pacman bouts," reported Michael Marley of Boxingconfidential.

*Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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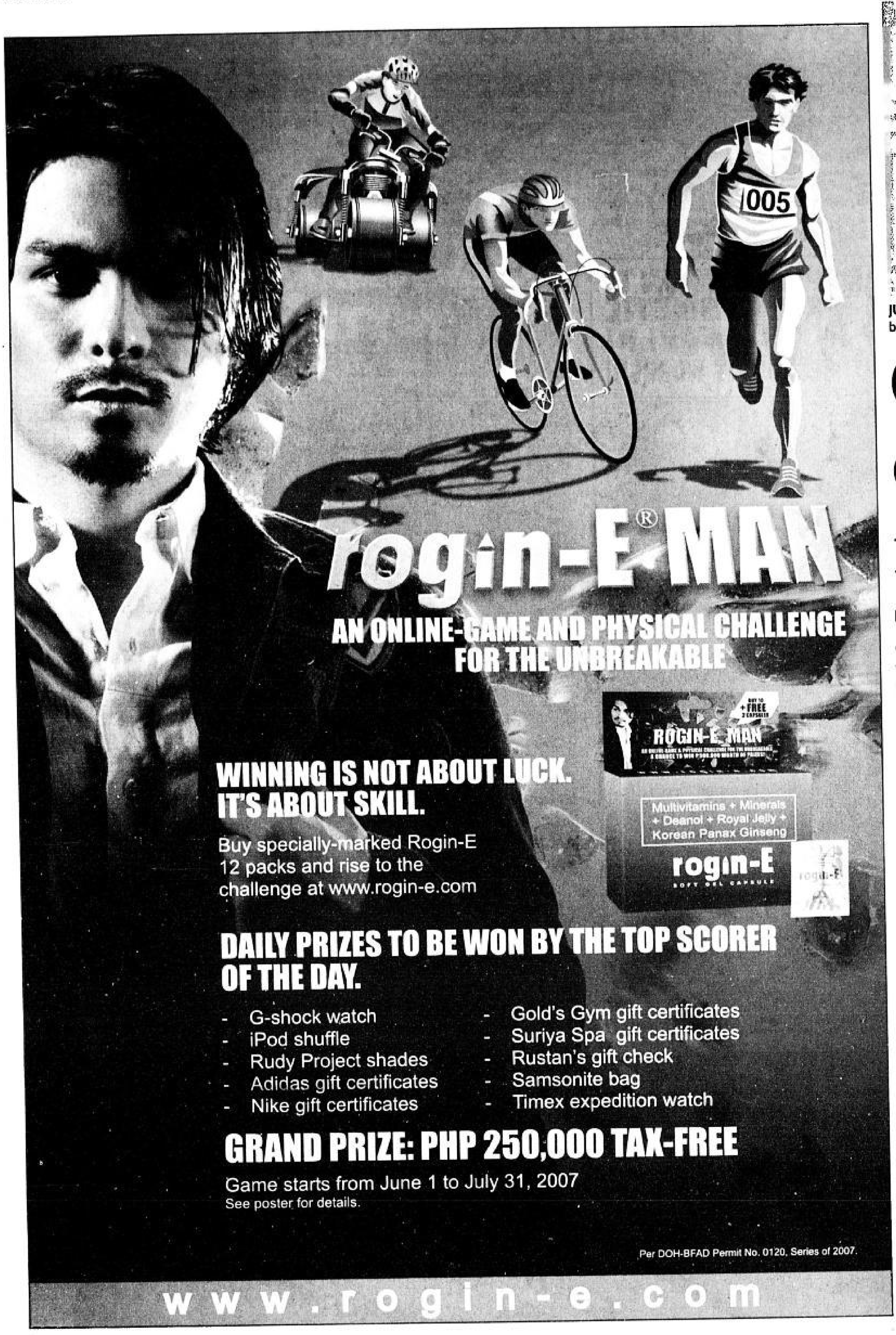
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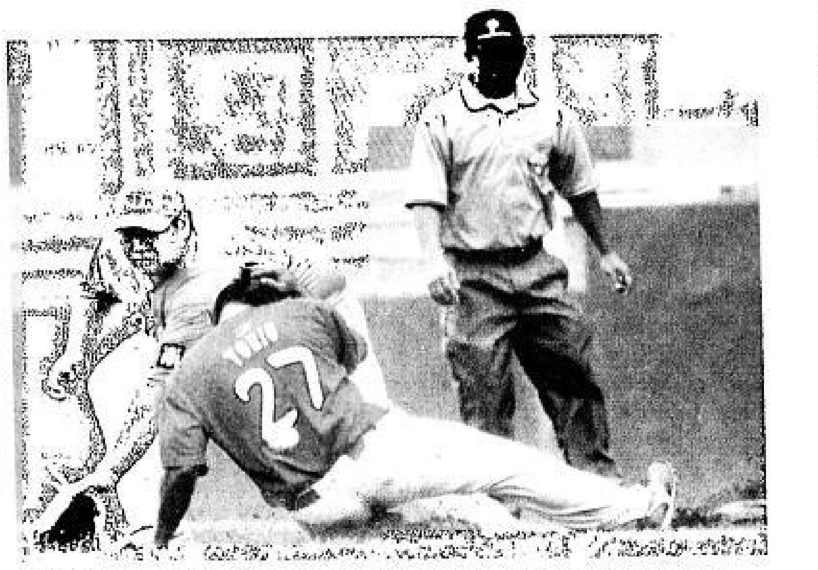
JUSTIN Torio of Manila Sharks beats the throw to Cebu Dolphins first baseman Miggy Corcuera in yesterday's game at the Rizal ballpark. RYAN LIM

# Cebu sweeps elims; Negros nips Laguna

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CEBU SCORED 10 RUNS IN THE FIRST FIVE INNINGS AND WENT on to scuttle Manila, 12-6, yesterday to complete a four-game sweep of Baseball Philippines' pilot series eliminations at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

The Dolphins finished with 16 hits off two Manila pitchers although Cebu had to call on ace hurler Joseph Orillana, who kept the Sharks from forging no more than a 4-4 tie in the second inning.

An outhit Negros earlier survived a rally by Laguna to salvage a 7-6 decision that allowed the Roosters to join the Dolphins in the semifinals with a 2-1 win-loss record.

Negros opened a 7-1 lead in the lower fifth before Laguna, which had 13 safeties to the enemy's six, rallied with three runs in the eight and two more in the ninth.

The Laguna Tigers fell to 0-3 but they still have a chance to qualify if they hurdle Makati (1-2) in Sunday's doubleheader. Negros and Manila (1-2) tangle in the other clash closing the eliminations.

Cebu had 4-1 lead following a two-run single by Korean pitcher Jeung Sung-ha in the upper second, but Jeung faltered in the lower half of the inning by issuing two walks and hitting a batter to load the bases with one out.

Orillana took over and was greeted by a two-run single by Saxon Omandac, who keyed a Manila rally that eventually tied the game at 4-all, before the Cebu pitcher struck out Nino Tator and Rommel Roja.

But the Dolphins struck back.

Roldan Bacarisas drove in a run in the third, Jonash Ponce smashed a two-run double in the fourth and the Dolphins added three more runs in the fifth for a 10-4 margin.

Orillana yielded eight hits in seven innings in picking up the win. The loser was Charlie Labrador, who gave up 11 hits in five innings.

As top semifinalist, Cebu will face the No. 4 team in the next round with the No. 2 and No. 3 squads colliding in the other semifinal duel.

The linescores:

| First Game | | R | H | E |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| LAGUNA | 000 100 032— | 6 | 13 | 2 |
| NEGROS | 330 010 000— | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| **Second Game** | | **R** | **H** | **E** |
| CEBU | 221 230 200— | 12 | 16 | 2 |
| MANILA | 130 020 000— | 6 | 12 | 0 |

## Boxers in developmental pool 'deserve free meals'

NATIONAL BOXING COACHES SEE THE EXCLUSION FROM MEAL ALLOWANCES of fighters in the sport's developmental pool as counterproductive.

"You will never know who among the boxers in the developmental pool could stand out if you don't feed them properly," said assistant coach Boy Velasco.

The Philippine Sports Commission, source of meal allowances for the various national sports associations, does not provide food allocations to athletes in NSAs' developmental pools. Only elite boxers in teams A and B enjoy the luxury of a free meal apart from monthly allowances. Head coach Pat Gaspi said the PSC takes care of the meals of the 30 boxers in the national team. *June Navarro*

# OVERCOMING BALDNESS

## THINK-A-HEAD

No man likes being bald. He may try to ignore it, but deep inside, there's a nagging feeling that life has been unfair. Why me? Why have I gone bald when my friends haven't? Many men sadly accept looking older, being called "Baldie," feeling not so attractive to the opposite sex and putting up with the other handicaps baldness brings – both socially and career wise.

Other men refuse to accept baldness and look for a way out – this is when a wrong decision can lead to an even worse state of frustration and despair. Before you do anything about baldness, read the answers to these most asked questions.

**Q. I DON'T LIKE BEING BALD – WHAT CAN I DO?**

**A.** There are basically two ways to go. Some men opt for a surgical hair transplant. Others for the non-surgical alternative. When making the decision there's one essential rule: *THINK-A-HEAD!* - it's not only the immediate results that are so important, it's what your head is going to look like in a few years.

**Q. OK, SO WHAT ABOUT SURGICAL TRANSPLANTS?**

**A.** Some say transplants have come a long way since the early days, others say they haven't come far enough. Basically, the surgical process involves taking donor hair from elsewhere on the recipient's head and transplanting it to the balding areas.

**Q. DOES TRANSPLANTED HAIR CONTINUE TO GROW?**

**A.** If the surgery has been performed well, the transplanted hair will continue to grow, as it did before it was moved.

**Q. CAN ANY BALD MAN HAVE A TRANSPLANT?**

**A.** It's not really possible for a man with advanced baldness because he simply would not have sufficient donor hair to cover his large bald area. Transplants do not increase the number of hairs on a man's head, it's just a case of redistributing them. Transplants are excellent for filling in smaller areas or adding extra hair to thinning parts where there is not expected to be further hairloss.

**Q. ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPLANTS?**

**A.** For men whose baldness will not advance further, there seems little downside to having a transplant.

**Q. BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I CONTINUE TO GO BALD?**

**A.** For those whose hairloss continues to advance, there can be significant problems. While the transplanted hair will carry on growing, his other hair becomes thin in contrast as he progressively goes bald. He can have further transplants, but it's likely donor hair will become insufficient as the donor areas do not re-grow hair. The result might be patches of thicker-growing hair among thinning and sparser hair – and this won't take long to happen. The ensuing odd appearance of the man's head can cause him further embarrassment and stress. Speed of hairloss varies, but for most it takes just a few short years from thinning to full-blown baldness.

If a man suffers from Male Pattern Baldness, which usually strikes when he's in his early twenties or thirties, his hairloss will likely continue until he's bald. This is where the catch-phrase *THINK-A-HEAD!* comes into play. Think what your head will look like in a few years after surgical transplanting – will you want to go out in public?

**Q. I DON'T WANT THAT RISK, SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?**

**A.** The non-surgical alternative is TCR or Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction. It's a super-fine synthetic skin with hair seen to be actually growing from it, which is then bonded to your scalp.

**Q. IS TCR FOR ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW BALD HE MIGHT BE?**

**A.** Yes, this advanced system is ideal for any state of hairloss and baldness, even for those with only a small amount of hair at the back and sides – the sort of baldness which is really not suitable for a transplant.

**Q. HOW REAL IS TCR, WILL IT LOOK GENUINE?**

**A.** TCR is real, natural hair, which looks and feels as if it's growing from your scalp. TCR cannot be distinguished from your own hair, even by touching. You are not "wearing" it, it's part of you.

**Q. DOES TCR REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE?**

**A.** To keep TCR perfect, you need only visits to the stylist every two or three weeks, just as any man does for the cutting and styling of his hair. As you get older, your TCR can be subtly aged and grayed, just as your full head of hair would have looked had you not lost any.

**Q. IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE – WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?**

**A.** There are no problems. You can do anything with TCR, it's your new full head of hair. It feels totally natural on your head – you're not aware of it. The only times you'll be reminded that you're no longer bald is when you look in the mirror and how others react to you – remember, you're going to look years younger!

**Q. IS TCR AVAILABLE IN MANILA?**

**A.** Yes, it's available in Manila at Svenson, the hair replacement specialists.

**Q. IS TCR SUITABLE FOR ME?**

**A.** To find out if your scalp condition and skin type are suitable for the TCR procedure, book a no-cost TCR fact-finding consultation by calling 892-4247.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Harbour 5 plans up at Forum

THE PLANS OF NEWLY CROWNED PHILIPPINE Basketball League Unity Cup champion Harbour Centre will be the second of two topics in today's PSA Forum at Shakey's on UN Avenue, Manila. Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero, team manager Eric Arejola and coach Jorge Gallent will grace the second part of the public sports program aired live over dzSR Sports Radio. The Batang Pier clinched their third straight PBL title at the expense of the Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala Moneymen, whom they swept, 3-0, in their best-of-five finals. Appearing in the first part of the session are equestrianne Daniela Virata, basketball coach Bonnie Garcia and Ver Sison of Vescon Construction, which built the state of the art sports facility at Colegio de San Lorenzo.

### SJC derby reset to Wednesday

THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF THE SJC International 8-Cock Derby gets under way this Wednesday at the San Juan Coliseum. Pit manager Pete Rivera said that the SJC management cancelled the 4-cock finals last Friday in compliance with a Commision on Elections ruling that "cockfighting and other forms of gaming, holding of fairs, boxing and other similar sports shall not be allowed during the plebiscite period." Last Saturday, the Comelec supervised a plebiscite held in the town of San Juan which is seeking cityhood. All the participants agreed to reset the championship round to Wednesday, Rivera said. Based on the latest rankings, the top contenders with four wins each were Charlie Hao with his entry Clyde and Yce, Louie Cua and Bobby Yulo (Amoy) and Arman Santos (Jade Resort).

### PCAP 5-cocker fires off today

THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby series resumes today with a roster of 65 fights at the Makati Coliseum and B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador as main backers. Focus will be on the Cocker of the Year battle among 15 top qualifiers. Sandy Sur and Edwin Yap with their entry Michael One (34.5 points) and the Firebird Jimafer of Biboy Enriquez, the Madlambayan Brothers and Jet Fernando (33.5) lead the race. The PCAP Grand Championship derby will be staged on July 7. "With ten more fights remaining, it's still anybody battle for the PCAP Cocker of the Year title," said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports Amusement Corp.

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# PSE cites surge in foreign buying

## Investments from abroad up 86.2% to P46.56B in first 5 months

**By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson**

NET FOREIGN BUYING IN THE STOCK MARKET SURGED 86.2 percent to P46.56 billion in the first five months of the year from P25 billion a year ago, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) reported.

Net foreign buying is a key indicator of investor interest in the stock market, which is computed by total foreign buying less selling within a given period.

The PSE said that total foreign buying from January to May this year almost doubled to P280.31 billion from the P141.2 billion posted in the corresponding period last year. Total foreign selling likewise expanded by 101.3 percent and reached P233.75 billion from P116.14 billion a year earlier.

The increase in foreign transactions coincided with the market's record-breaking run in May. Stock prices, as tracked by the PSEi, started reaching new highs on May 18, when it closed at 3,449.18 points to erase the previous record high of 3,447.60 points set on Feb. 3, 1997.

The PSEi closed at 3,474.67 on May 31, or 16.5 percent higher than its level of 2,982.54 at the end of 2006. Last Friday, the PSEi closed again at a new record high of 3,671.29 points.

"The buildup of foreign investments is fueling the market's record-breaking run," said PSE president Francis Lim. "I am optimistic we can sustain the interest of foreign investors, as long as the country's economic foundations remain solid, while our po-

PSE/ B7

### INDICATORS

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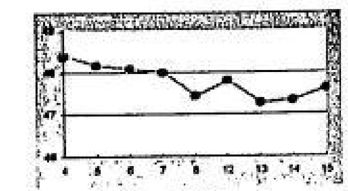

JUNE

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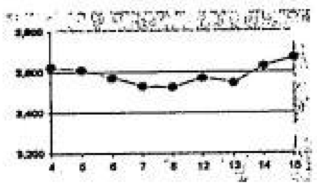
### STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B6)

### Market sets its sights overseas

THE STOCK MARKET IS SEEN TO TAKE ITS cue from news overseas, in a dearth of leads on the economic and corporate fronts at home, analysts said.

"The outlook next week is dependent on the movements of the bigger markets," Citiseconline president Conrado Bate said. "There is no local news that is exciting. We're not out of the woods and we may take the cue from overseas markets."

MARKET/ B6

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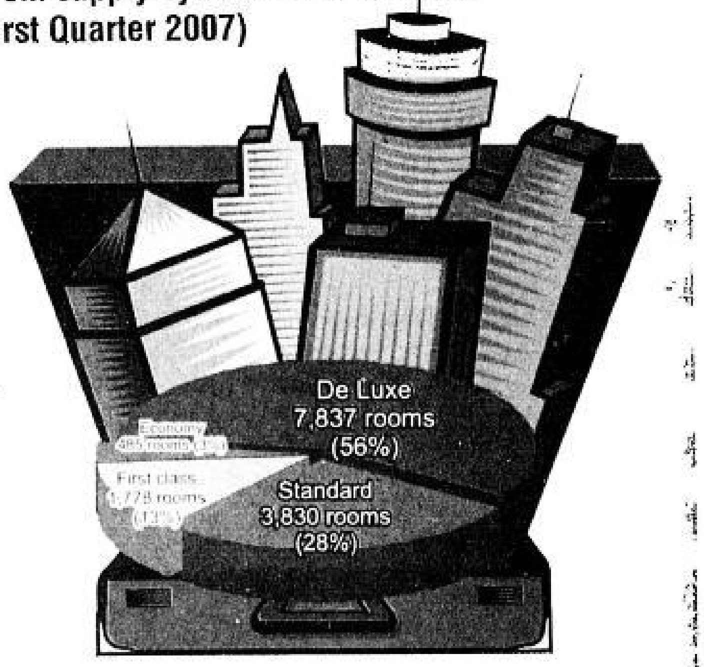

Source: Department of Tourism
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Gov't sees P99B** in additional VAT collection next year /B5

**No Free Lunch:** Sustaining 6.9 percent /B6

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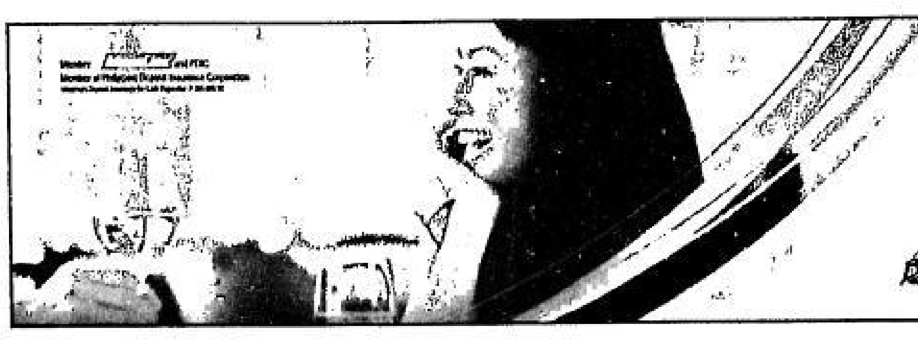

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# For Zambo firm, mining site yields golden signs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR MINING FIRM TVI Resource Development (Philippines) Inc. continues to receive positive results from an ongoing assessment of a gold vein in its Balabag property.

TVIRD reported that infill drilling results from Balabag yielded values ranging from 0.95 to 2.85 grams of gold per ton of ore, and 58.3 to 104.41 grams of silver per ton.

The infill drilling program, which covers the Tinago-Miswi-Lalab vein system at the Balabag property, is meant to define the extent of the gold vein system and determine the consistency of reported mineral values.

Infill drilling refers to the drilling of additional holes within a defined outline of a mineral deposit for the purpose of increasing reserves. In Balabag, the new holes are being drilled at intervals of 25 meters.

TVIRD said the drilling program was on hold

FOR ZAMBO/ B3

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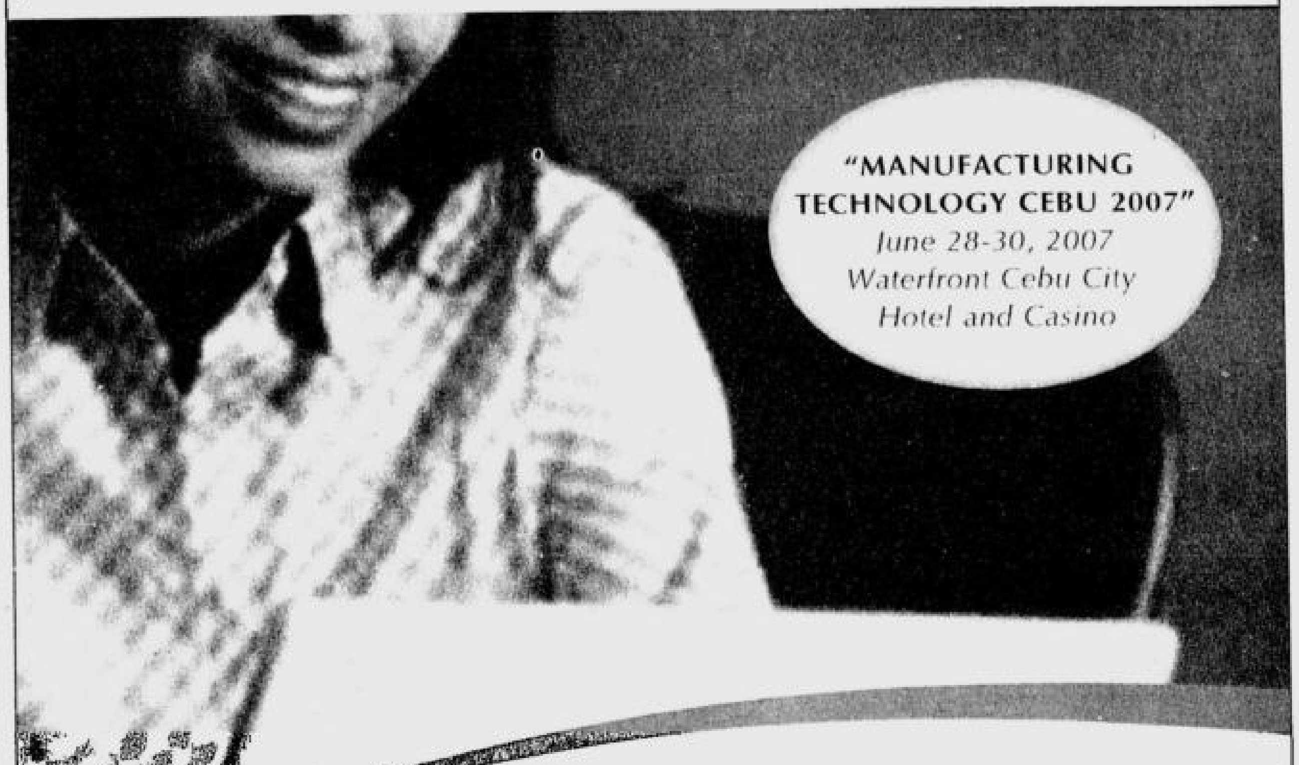
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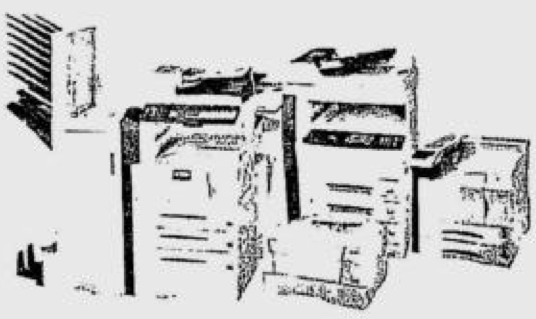

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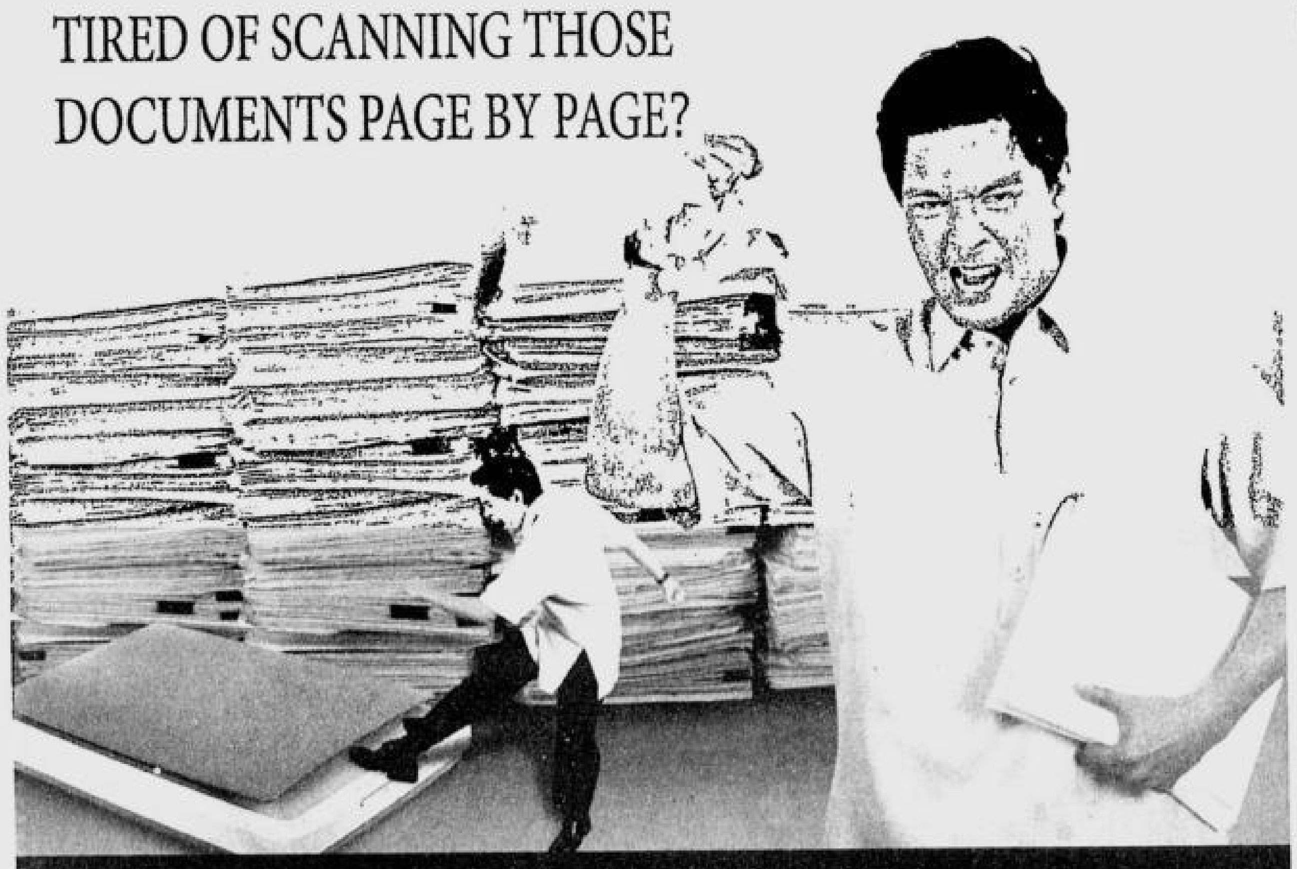

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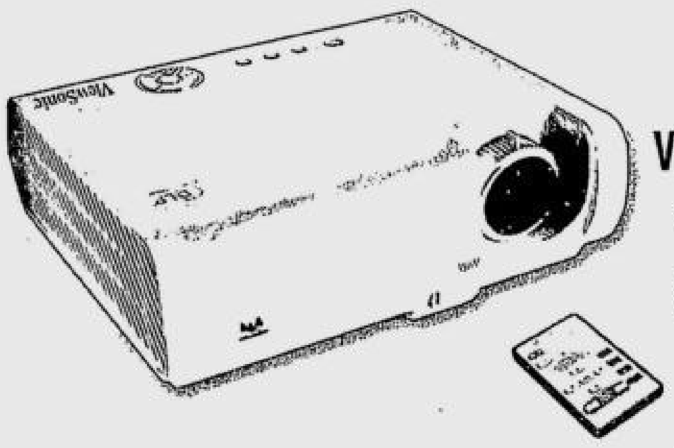

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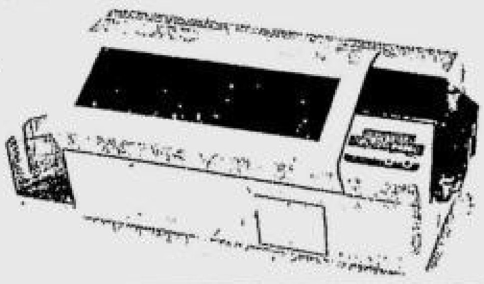

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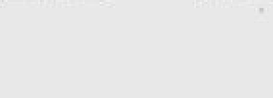

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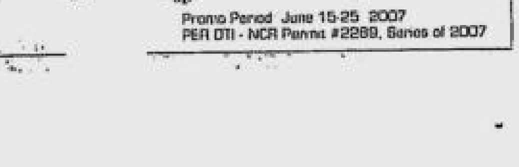

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## For Zambo firm . . .

From page B2

to allow completion of the Balabag resource estimates. It will resume drilling once the assessment and ensuing feasibility study are completed.

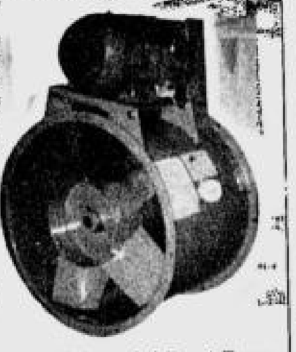
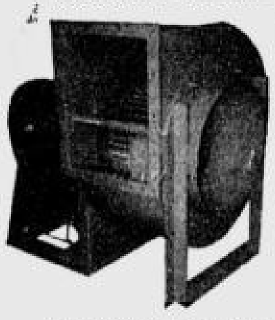
A total of 63 holes 50 meters apart had already been drilled, all of which had provided "encouraging" metal values of up to 103.92 grams of gold per ton, and up to 5,234.30 grams of silver per ton.

The company said the Tinago vein appears to be the largest mineralized structure at Balabag, while the Miswi-Lalab twin vein system is smaller and thinner.

In a report issued last month, TVIRD's Canada-based affiliate TVI Pacific Inc. said the former's net income in the first quarter went up 67.3 percent to C$2.4 million or some P102 million as revenue increased 40.3 percent to C$10.23 million (P425 million).

In gold terms, TVIRD's Canatuan mine in Zamboanga del Sur yielded 13,308 gold equivalent ounces, up 14 percent compared to the output in the comparative period last year.

TVI Pacific said exploration on existing and new properties is expected to increase toward the end of 2007 as it expands its portfolio of properties in the Philippines.

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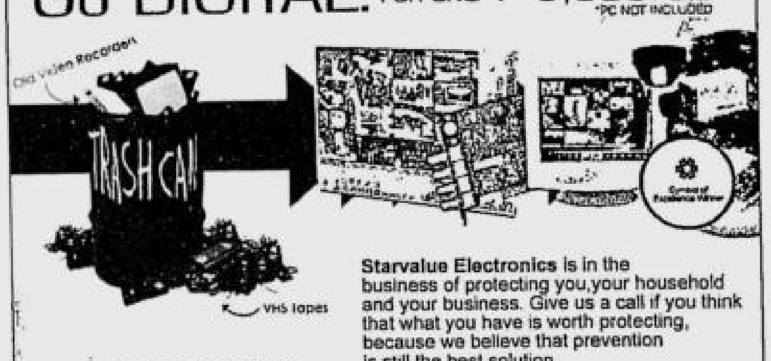

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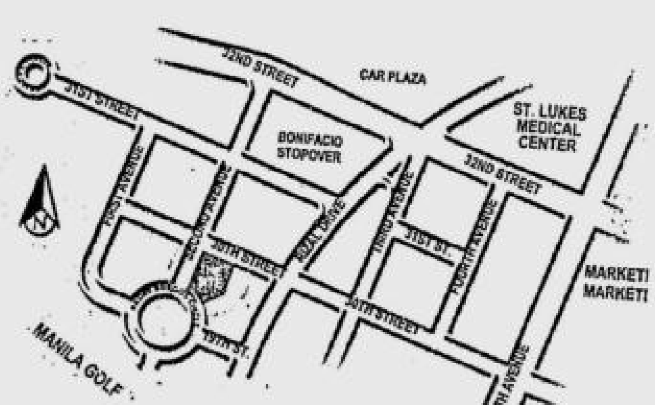

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Min Bid Price: P 5,378,000

SPR_MKT422 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 35.60sqm (near AMA College)
SOUTH STAR PLAZA,
South Super Hi-way
Min Bid Price: P 721,000

SPR_MKT428 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 107sqm w/PARKING.
THE PEAK CONDO Alfaro cor. Herrera Sts. (near KFC Alfaro)
Min Bid Price: P 5,617,000

SPR_MKT429 OFFICE CONDO
BURGUNDY CONDO, Gil Puyat
(near Crispa & Makati Medical)

| Floor Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 45.30sqm | P 3,034,000 |
| 68.30sqm | P 4,446,000 |

SPR_MKT433 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 233sqm w/PARKING
(near Makati Sport Club)
LPL MANOR Alfaro St. SALCEDO VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 11,868,000

SPR_MKT434 RSDL CONDO
PALACE OF MAKATI, P Burgos St.
(near Makati Ave.)

| Floor Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 32.60sqm | P 1,450,000 |
| 66.00sqm | P 2,933,000 |

SPR_MKT436 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 150sqm w/ PARKING
(near Makati Sport Club)
LPL MANOR Alfaro St., SALCEDO VILL.
Min Bid Price: P 7,510,000

SPR_MKT437 RDSL/INDUST HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 295sqm F.A. 280sqm
Suez St. Sta. Cruz (near Meralco)
near METROPOLITAN AVE.
Min Bid Price: P 7,332,000

SPR_MKT439 RSDL CONDO
T-TOWER CONDO (near 7-11 Store)
P Burgos cor Calderon St.

| Floor Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 30sqm | P 921,000 |
| 583sqm | P 18,831,000 |

MANILA

SPR_MNL443 PENTHOUSE CONDO
GOTESCO REGENCY TWIN TOWERS
Concepcion St. (near SM Manila)

| Floor Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 369.18sqm | P 7,218,000 |
| 372.78sqm | P 7,288,000 |
| 373.38sqm | P 7,300,000 |

MARIKINA

SPR_MRK741 3-STRY TOWNHOUSE
Ritzwood Lane Townhomes
Brgy. Marikina Hts.
(near St. Scholastica Schl)

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 151sqm | P 4,593,570 |
| 156sqm | P 4,611,420 |
| 162sqm | P 4,632,840 |

MONTALBAN, RIZAL

SPR_RZL341 FARM LOT
L.A. 3,901sqm (near San Jose Market)
Sampaguita St. ADIA, Montalban
Min. Bid Price: P 1,802,000

MUNTINLUPA

SPR_MUN471 HSE & LOT w/ BSMNT
L.A. 1,221sqm F.A. 1,092sqm
(Near City Hall & Alabang Business)
Regent St. and Peninsula St.
PLEASANT VILLAGE
Min Bid Price: P 7,225,000

ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG

SPR_PSG478 OFFICE CONDO
F.A. 193.32sqm
(near SM Megamall & Shangrila Mall)
ONE MAGNIFICENT MILE CONDO,
San Miguel Ave.
Min Bid Price: P 7,806,000

SPR_PSG795 PARKING UNITS
A/C BURGUNDY EMPIRE TOWER
ADB Ave. Sapphire & Garnet Rd. St. Ortigas Center (AT THE BACK OF ROBINSON GALLERIA)
Slot 1 - 79 slots available
F.A 12sqm
Min. Bid Price: P330,000.00
Slot 2 - 89 slots available
F.A. 12sqm
Min. Bid Price: P350,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

SPR_PRQ474 TOWNHSE w/ PRKG
WESTMONT VILL., Dr. A. Santos Ave.
(near City Hall & Uniwide Warehouse Club)

| Floor Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 77.25sqm | P 1,338,000 |
| 131.75sqm | P 2,147,000 |

SPR_PRQ773 RSDL LOT
Seascape cor Dolphins, JALEVILLE Subd.
(near St. Joseph Parish Church Las Piñas, Coastal Rd. & Kabihasnan)

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 493sqm | P 3,772,000 |
| 493sqm | P 3,772,000 |

PASAY

SPR_PSY477 2 RSDL BLDG
L.A. 674sqm F.A. 245sqm & 400sqm
P. ZAMORA St. (Near MRT & LRT EDSA Station)
Min Bid Price: P 7,993,000

PILILIA, RIZAL

SPR_RZL346 FARM LAND
MOTHER'S FARM
Bagong Bayan, San Isidro

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 5,582sqm | P 1,804,000 |
| 5,834sqm | P 1,885,000 |
| 11,429sqm | P 3,692,000 |

QUEZON CITY

SPR_QCL482 UNIFINISHED BLDG
L.A. 1,643sqm
(near Broadway Centrum)
AURORA BLVD. cor. Madison St.
Min Bid Price: P 34,914,000

SPR_QCL484 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 38.80sqm
XAVIERVILLE ROYALE CONDO.
Loyola Hts. (near Ateneo & Katipunan Ave)
Min Bid Price: P 1,254,000

SPR_QCB487 RSDL LOT
L.A. 621sqm (near EVER GOTESCO)
Victorino Salazar St.
Brgy. Holy Spirit, BF HOMES
Min Bid Price: P 4,514,000

SPR_QCB488 WARE HOUSE
L.A 1,497sqm (Near Villa Village)
Quirino Highway Brgy. Talipapa, NOVALICHES
Min Bid Price: P 18,133,000

SPR_QCB490 RSDL CONDO UNITS
TATEM CONDO MINDANAO AVE,
Brgy. Bago Bolay
(Near Congressional Ave)

| Floor Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 189.53sqm | P 6,365,000 |
| 236.84sqm | P 5,120,000 |
| 236.84sqm | P 5,981,000 |
| 236.84sqm | P 5,981,000 |

SPR_QCL495 - RSDL CONDO
F.A 45sqm. (2 Units Available)
PRINCE GREGORY CONDO
12th Ave. Cubao
(near ALI Mall, SM & Gateway)
Min Bid Price: P 1,636,000 each unit

SPR_QCB503 6-STRY COMML BLDG
L.A. 2,205sqm F.A. 4,480sqm
(w/ 52 Units & Alley/ Parking lot)
HOSLA CONDOMINIUM I,
Tomas Morato (Near E. Rodriguez)
Min Bid Price: P 78,389,000

QCB510 RSDL CONDO UNIT
WEST MANSION HOTEL, Zamboanga St.
(near Visayas Ave & Quezon Ave)

| Floor Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 12.50sqm | P 162,000 (parking) |
| 37.76sqm | P 1,220,000 |
| 55.97sqm | P 2,034,000 |

SPR_QCL524 RSDL CONDO
F.A. 80sqm (Near SM & ALI Mall)
UNION SQUARE ONE CONDO
15th Ave. Cubao
Min Bid Price: P 1,938,000

SPR_QCB525 2STYRY OLD HOUSE
L.A. 450sqm F.A. 225sqm
(Near Sienna College)
Wayan St., MASAMBONG
Min Bid Price: P 5,755,000

SPR_QCL258 RSDL LOT
Palanan, CAPITOL DISTRICT
(NEAR LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS)

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 5,000sqm | P 3,157,000<br>(2 lots available) |
| 5,586sqm | P 3,527,000 |

TAGUIG

SPR_TAG537 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,999sqm (near City Hall)
JONES EXT., Pawang, Wawa
Min Bid Price: P 2,892,000

TAYTAY, RIZAL

SPR_RZL339 RSDL LOT
L.A. 249sqm.
(near Home Sweet Home Grocery)
Diamond St. PALMERA HOMES II
Min. Bid Price: P 544,000

SPR_RZL340 HSE & LOT w/ WRHSE
L.A. 454sqm. (Near Coca-cola Plant)
Macopa St. DIVIDEND HOMES
Min. Bid Price: P 1,249,000

VALENZUELA

SPR_VAL545 WAREHOUSE
L.A. 1,234sqm F.A. 1,340sqm
(Beside Regina Cycle Center)
KOWLOON COMPD.
Bo. Ugong, Maputang Lupa
Min Bid Price. P 6,107,000

LUZON

BAGUIO
Text 09185328111

SPR_BAG001 RSDL CONDO
F.A.177.16sqm. (near Marcos Hiway)
BAGUIO CLASSICS CONDO
Green Valley Subdivision
Min. Bid Price: P 3,577,000

SPR_BGT746 VACANT LOT
PINESWOOD GOLF & COUNTRY ESTATE, Tuba

| L.A. | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 290 sqm. | P 1,232,500 |
| 326 sqm | 1,385,500 |
| 368 sqm. | 1,407,600 |
| 369 sqm. | 1,254,600 |
| 403 sqm. | 1,712,750 |
| 454 sqm. | 1,929,500 |
| 472 sqm. | 1,604,800 |

BATANGAS
Text 09175443063

SPR_BAT655 LOFTY WAREHOUSE
L.A. 846sqm Along Nat'l Rd.
(Near Padre Garcia Market)
Brgy. Pansol. PADRE GARCIA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,815,000

SPR_BAT222 RSDL/AGRI - LOT
L.A 4,667sqm.
(near SM Lipa and Robinson)
BRGY. BALINTAWAK, Lipa City
Min. Bid Price: P 7,538,000

SPR_BAT223 RSDL LOT
L.A 1,879sqm (
near La Salle & Robinson)
MASAGANA Subd. Tambo
Min. Bid Price: P 3,194,000

BULACAN
Text 09273333733

SPR_BUL718 RSDL LOT
L.A. 4,897sqm
(Near Kalantipay Elem. Schl)
L 3531-D Dr. Luis Reyes St.
Brgy. Kalantipay, Baliuag
Min. Bid Price: P 1,096,000

SPR_BUL080 RESORT W/ COTTAGE & FISHPOND
L.A. 33,337sqm. F.A. 2,500 sqm.
(Near Bulacan Municipal Hall)
VILLA EVANGELISTA, Bagumbayan
Min. Bid Price: P 34,035,000

SPR_BUL081 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 500sqm
(Near Meycauyan Exit-NLEX)
DOÑA CONSOLACION VILLAGE 3,
Brgy. Malhacan, Meycauyan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000

SPR_BUL082 9 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 4,099sqm
(Near Meycauayan Exit-NLEX)
Samson St. Metro Gate Complex
Brgy. Malhacan, MEYCAUYAN
Min. Bid Price: P 6,693,000

CAVITE
Text 09189048230

SPR_CVT258 RSDL LOT
L.A 1,198sqm (Golf Resort Village)
MANILA SOUTHWOODS,
Kabilang Baybay, Carmona
Min. Bid Price: P 8,224,000

SPR_CVT260 RSDL LOT
L.A. 21,191sqm.
(Near SM & Robinson- Dasma)
CITIVIEW FARMS Paliparan, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P6,977,000

SPR_CVT261 RSDL LOT
L.A. 657sqm
(Near De La Salle Dasma)
THE ORCHARD SUBD.
Salitran, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price: P 2,812,000

SPR_CVT264 TOWN HOUSE
L.A. 126sqm F.A. 163sqm
(Near Golf & Country Club Village)
MANILA ORCHARD TOWNHOMES
Salitran, Dasmarinas
Min. Bid Price; P 1,616,000

SPR_CVT266 RSDL LOT
L.A. 102sqm
(near De La Salle Dasma)
Lot 13 Blk 15 St. Peter Street
CARDINAL SUBD., SALITRAN DASMARINAS
Min. Bid Price: P 378,000

SPR_CVT272 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 198sqm F.A 132.50sqm
(Near Robinson Dasma)
San Juan St. Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 1,039,000

SPR_CVT273 RSDL LOT
PALLAS ATHES EXEC.
Bgy. Anabu, Imus
(Near Dasma Town Proper)

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 300sqm | P 727,000 |
| 647sqm | P 1,568,000 |

SPR_CVT304 RSDL LOT
MIRA HILLS SUBD.
Puerto Azul, Ternate

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 1,200sqm | P 4,845,000 |
| 1,332sqm | P 5,378,000 |
| 1,344sqm | P 5,427,000 |
| 1,457sqm | P 5,884,000 |

ISABELA
Text 09195829178

SPR_ISB655 RSDL VACANT LOT
L.A. 35,400sqm.
(Near UBIDO's Junkshop)
Bo. Cabaruan, CAUAYAN
Min. Bid Price: P 12,036,000

SPR_ISB658 RSDL VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,234sqm.
(Near Paddad Elem. School)
Maharlika Rd. PADDAD,
ALICIA, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price: P 945,000

SPR_ISB664 RSDL VACANT LOT
L.A. 448sqm.
(Near Iglesia ni Cristo Church)
L5052-C-1 Prov. Rd,
San Rafael, Roxas
Min. Bid Price: P 457,000

SPR_ISB666 RSDL LOT
NATIONAL HIGH WAY, Roxas,
(Near Town Proper)

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 1,000sqm | P 255,000 |
| 4,000sqm | P 1,020,000 |
| 5,000sqm | P 1,275,000 |
| 5,104sqm | P 1,302,000 |

SPR_ISB672 RSDL VACANT LOT
L.A. 2,500sqm
(Beside Capitol Hills Subd)
Lot L-2-B-2-A BO ALIBAGU, Ilagan
Min. Bid Price: P 510,000

SPR_ISB673 RSDL VACANT LOT
L.A. 4,468sqm (near NAPOLCOM)
BO. URINATE, Cauayan, Isabela
Min. Bid Price: P 3,038,000

LAGUNA
Text 09178054175

SPR_LGN311 RSDL/COMML LOT
L.A. 409sqm (beside San Jose Polymedic)
Doktora St. (Kanluran)
Mayapa, CALAMBA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,653,000

SPR_LGN314 COMML LOT w/ WRHSE
L.A. 300sqm F.A. 600sqm
DONA EUSEBIA SUBD.,
L7 B2 Yakal St., Concepcion,
San Pablo City (Near SSS BLDG)
Min. Bid Price: P 3,918,000

NUEVA ECIJA
Text 09158002733

SPR_NE096 2STRY HOUSE & LOT W/ INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE
L.A. 1,000sqm F.A. 443sqm
MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY
Cabanatuan (Beside SM)
Min. Bid Price: P 9,153,000

SPR_NE103 2 RSDL VACANT LOTS
L.A. 400 sqm. (wear Youngs Clinic)
Bo. Valdeluente, CABANATUAN CITY
Min. Bid Price P 1,228,000 each

SPR_NE122 RSDL LOT
L.A. 184sqm. (within Old Muñoz)
Poblacion, Muñoz
Min. Bid Price: P 1,338,000

SPR_NE123 AGRI LOT
Bo. Maligaya, Muñoz (Near Phil. Rice)

| Lot Area | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 12,964sqm | P 1,047,000 |
| 14,768sqm | P 1,194,000 |
| 30,527sqm | P 2,466,000 |

SPR_NE127 RSDL LOT
Prov'l Road, Brgy. Manacnac Palayan
(near ARC Manacnac)

| Lot Area | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 1,000sqm | P 323,000 |
| 1,066sqm | P 345,000 |

SPR_NE132 2STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 500sqm. F.A.145.10sqm
(near Fire Station)
CARDENAS ST. Poblacion, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 3,495,000

SPR_NE133 RSDL LOT
L.A. 941sqm (Near Health Center)
EUGENIO ST. Poblacion, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 3,586,000

SPR_NE134 2STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150sqm. F.A. 125sqm
(within City Proper)
PANAHON ST. Calaocan, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 720,000

SPR_NE138 4STRY COMML BLDG
L.A. 178sqm. F.A. 580sqm
(within City Proper)
ELSA TOWER Poblacion, San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P 6,154,000

SPR_NE147 RSDL LOT
L.A. 423sqm (near Sea Oil)
ANDAL ALINO SUBD. Talavera
Min. Bid Price. P 308,000

SPR_NE149 - RSDL LOT
MAHARLIKA Rd. Bagong Silang,
Talavera (within City Proper)

| Lot Area | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 232sqm | P 32,000 |
| 416sqm | P 57,000 |
| 9,061sqm | P 1,203,000 |
| 9,980sqm | P 1,325,000 |

SPR_NE155 RSDL LOT
LA 4,319sqm (near Provincial Rd)
Bo. of San Pascual, TALAVERA
Min. Bid Price. P 3,139,000

PAMPANGA

SPR_PAM158 RSDL LOT
L.A.1,508sqm
(Near San Simon Toll Plaza)
Quezon Rd. Bo. San Nicolas, MEXICO
Min. Bid Price: P 308,000

SPR_PAM165 AGRI LOT
L.A 32,686sqm (Front of SG Farm)
Lot-157-B Along San Isidro Rd.
Bo. San Pedro SAN SIMON
Min. Bid Price. P 6,600,000

SPR_PAM169 HOUSE &LOT
L.A. 500sqm F.A 117.5sqm.
FC COUNTRY SQUARE Subd.
Sto. Tomas (near Petron and FC clinic)
Min. Bid Price: P 388,000

SPR_PAM170 1STRY COMML BLDG
L.A 4,280sqm F.A. 2,449 sqm.
Mac Arthur Highway Bo. Dalaquitan
SAN MATIAS, Sto. Tomas
Min. Bid Price: P 12,840,000

PANGASINAN
Text 09154348252

SPR_PSN062 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,057sqm. (near Barangay Hall)
Bo. Torres, MAPANDAN
Min. Bid Price: P 494,000

SPR_PSN065 RSDL LOT
L.A 3,686sqm (near Tulao Bridge)
F. VILLANUEVA, Brgy. Dalonque
Sta. Barbara
Min. Bid Price: P 1,853,000

QUEZON PROVINCE
Text 09209222495

SPR_QP352 SUBDIVISION LOTS
L.A. 12,031sqm (various Lots)
(near Town Proper)
NUEVA CANDELARIA SUBD.
National Highway, Masin Sur
Min. Bid Price: P 18,229,000

SPR_QP354 RSDL LOT
PUERTO DEL MAR SUBD.
Ilayang Sabang, Lucena
(near DFA Office)

| Lot Area | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 204sqm | P 413,000 |
| 221sqm | P 447,000 |
| 2000sqm | P 561,000 |

SPR_QP356 RSDL LOT
L.A. 5000sqm
(near San Jose Village)
Ibabang Talim, Lucena
Min. Bid Price: P 808,000

SPR_QP358 2STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A 232sqm F.A. 167.8sqm
(near DFA Office)
Bahamas and Cezchoslovakia St.
BETTER LIVING SUBD. Lucena City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,461,000

SPR_QP360VACANT LOT
L.A. 3850sqm. (near Grand Terminal)
(beside Metropolis Subd)
Diversion Rd. Bgy. Ibabang Dupay,LUCENA
Min. Bid Price: P 2,284,000

TAGAYTAY
Text 09175443063

SPR_TGY221 RAWLAND
L.A. 15,000sqm
(INSIDE WOODLAND SUBD)
Brgy. Birinayan TAGAYTAY RIDGE
Min. Bid Price: P 14,415,000

SPR_TGY226 RSDL LOT
RODEO HILLS SUBD.
Brgy. Malabag Alfonso
(near Royale Tagaytay)

| Lot Area | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 350sqm | P 425,000.00 |
| 375sqm | P 607 000 00 |
| 431sqm | P 523 000 00 |
| 1,298sqm | P1,049,000.00 |

SPR_TGY252 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,596sqm
Washington Ave., Royal Tagaytay Estate, Alfonso (near Club House)
Min. Bid Price: P 7,733,000

SPR_TGY278 RSDL LOT
L.A. 8,059sqm (overlooking Taal)
LIGAYA DRIVE Brgy. Sungay
Min. Bid Price: P 16,270,000

SPR_TGY279 RSDL LOT
L.A. 237sqm
(near Tagaytay Solo Grande)
TAGAYTAY WOODSBORROUGH
Min. Bid Price: P 605,000

SPR_TGY743 2 STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 196sqm F.A. 230sqm
(Near Picnic Grove)
2nd St. SOUTHRIDGE VILLAS
Southridge Residential Estate
Brgy. Sungay
Min. Bid Price: P 3,836,050

SPR_TGY744 RSDL LOT
L.A. 380sqm (Near Mahogany Market)
Orange Blossom & Lime St.
TAGAYTAY Hts. Brgy. kaybagal
Min. Bid Price: P 1,938,000

SPR_TGY746 RSDL CONDO.
F.A. 91.45 sqm.
w/ common prkg. of 43.59 sqm.
TAGAYTAY HIGHLAND
w/ 1 Midland Golf Share
Min. Bid Price: P5,622,500

TARLAC
Text 09175141684

SPR_TAR175 RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,233 sqm
(near Methodist Church)
C. Aquino Rd. Bo. Sapang Maragul
Min Bid Price: 475,000

SPR_TAR178 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 247sqm F.A. 221sqm
(near 7/11 Store)
No 4 Don Benigno ST.
AQUINO SUBD, Sto. Cristo
Min. Bid Price: P 1,110,000

SPR_TAR 180 RSDL LOT
Bo. SAN ISIDRO (near Chapel)

| Lot Area | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 642sqm | P 163,000 |
| 2,979sqm | P 548,000 |

SPR_TAR185 RSDL LOT
Joemac Subd., Bo. of San Roque
NOW SAN VICENTE
(near Camp Macabulos)

| Lot Area | Min Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 990sqm | P 800,000 |
| 1,026sqm | P 924,000 |
| 1,143sqm | P 997,000 |

SPR_TAR188 RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,400sqm (Along Bo. Road)
Sitio Banga-Banga,
Bo. Villa Aglipay, San Jose
Min. Bid Price. P 550,000

SPR_TAR193 1-STRY HSE & LOT
L.A. 867sqm F.A. 112sqm
Paraiso St. Sitio Maligaya,
SAPANG MARAGUL (along Bo. Road)
Min. Bid Price: P 405,000

SPR_TAR201 RSDL LOT
SAN JUAN DE MATA and Sto. Niño
(near Romulo Highway)

| Lot Area | Min. Bid Price |
|---|---|
| 120sqm | P 184,000 |
| 123sqm | P 189,000 |
| 150sqm | P 230,000 |
| 304sqm | P 466,000 |

SPR_TAR217 RSDL LOT
L.A. 373sqm
(beside Banco San Juan)
M. H. Del Pilar St., Bo. STO. CRISTO
Min. Bid Price: P 4,519,000

VISAYAS

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Text 09214488869

SPR_NO556 RSDL LOT
L.A. 405sqm
GAMBAO SUBD., Talisay City
Min Bid Price. P 295,000

SPR_NO557 RSDL LOT
L.A. 71,964sqm
(near Cadiz and Escalante)
BRGY. LOPEZ JAENA, Sagay City
Min Bid Price: P 692,000

MINDANAO

BUTUAN CITY
Text 09283336161

SPR_BUT562 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,837sqm
(near St. Peter Memorial Chapel)
C.M Recto Langihan
Min Bid Price: P 1,360,000

COTABATO
Text 091926530112

SPR_COT777 1STRY HOUSE &LOT
L.A. 222sqm F.A. 159sqm
(near adjoining St. to Santos)
Santos St. Extension, Kristanville
Min Bid Price: P 501,000

SPR_COT580 RSDL LOT
L.A. 471sqm (near national highway)
Alley Perpendicular to Sinsuat Ave. Bgy. Rosary
Min Bid Price: P 723,000

SPR_COT783 RSDL LOT
L.A. 574sqm (near kayabe lodge)
Maria Clara St., Rosary Heights 4
Min Bid Price: P 537,000

SPR_COT585 AGRI - LOT
L.A. 46,596sqm
(near Regional Hospital)
Lot 8, Malagapas St., ROSARY HTS.
Min Bid Price: P 3,993,000

DAVAO
Text 09219703112

SPR_DAV593 RSDL & AGRI LOT
L.A. 15,237sqm (within the booming district of Talomo)
Bago LIBBY, Puan
Min Bid Price: P 2,215,000

SPR_DAV606 3 STRY RSDL & COMML BLDG
L.A 1,828sqm F.A 3,800sqm
(across GSIS main office, SM & NCCC)
San Miguel, MATINA.
Min Bid Price: P 13,722,000

GENERAL SANTOS CITY
Text 09267665746

SPR_GSC616 AGRI LOT
L.A 37,965sqm
(near Purok Kauswagan)
MENESES RD. Brgy. Lagao.
Min Bid Price: P 5,090,000

SPR_GSC317 VACANT LOT
L.A 11,424sqm
(near New Society High School)
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L.A. 307sqm (near Saavedra Subd.)
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# Seaoil gauges market for maiden offering

**By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson**

PETROLEUM PLAYER SEAOIL PHILIPPINES Inc. is studying plans to go public next year, hoping to raise between P1 and P1.5 billion.

"We want to professionalize the organization," Seaoil chief finance officer Mark Yu said. "We want to be a conglomerate and to expand our oil retail market."

Yu said Seaoil is looking at expanding its oil retail stations to up to 500 over the next three years. At present, it has 120 filling stations.

Founded in 1978, the Seaoil Group of Companies at first started offering storage facilities for petroleum and petrochemical products.

Soon after, it rapidly expanded its operations by carving a niche in the wholesale petroleum market. A decade later, the company partnered with Paramins, at that time one of the world's leading lubricant additive supplier, to develop the most advanced lubricants in the market.

In 1996 in anticipation of the oil market deregulation, Seaoil Philippines Inc. was established, eventually becoming the first independent petroleum player to open a gasoline retail station.

Today, the Seaoil Group of Companies constitutes over 1 percent of the country's annual downstream oil industry's revenue of P240 billion, according to its website.

Over the next five years, Seaoil is looking at expanding its products to include biofuels.

# Life insurance companies expect to meet capitalization requirement

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE LIFE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS CONFIDENT that it will meet this year the risk-based capitalization requirement recently imposed by regulators.

The Insurance Commission has set the new requirement in order to weed out insurers with unstable finances.

"As of latest estimate, the industry would be able to meet the risk-based capitalization requirement," said Emilio de Quiros, president of the Philippine Life Insurance Association. "(The industry) will not have problems complying with that."

According to a regulation which the Insurance Commission issued last year, the capitalization requirement for insurance companies will increase every year until 2011. The amount of increase will depend on the amount of foreign equity infused in the firm.

Insurance firms with a higher amount of foreign equity shall be imposed a higher capitalization requirement.

But the commission has also slightly eased the regulation by providing a way for an insurance firm to be exempted from the hike in capitalization requirement.

Insurance commissioner Evangeline Escobillo said the implementation of the annual hike in capitalization requirement until 2011 and the risk-based ratio requirement were intended to instill financial discipline among insurance firms.

# RP may emerge on top of tuna trade

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY is launching next week a four-day trade fair in General Santos City to promote the One Town, One Product (Otop) initiative in Mindanao, and turn the country into one of the world's top tuna exporters.

According to Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, chair of the House committee on fisheries, the Philippines is likely to emerge as the world's No. 1 tuna producer once the government carries out a new law spurring handline fishing, forges new bilateral fishing pacts, and secures greater foreign market access for the high-value produce.

Citing data from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Villafuerte said the country's tuna output in 2006 reached some 500,000 tons which exceeded 10 percent of the world's total yield of 4 million tons.

Trade Undersecretary Carissa C. Evangelista said in an interview that the GenSan Otop fair was also part of a series of trade shows designed to encourage towns in the regions to develop products and services that are unique to them.

In GenSan, the Otop features are tuna products, in which 50 small- to large-scale firms are engaged in processing and exports.

"Activities of these firms not only benefit those directly employed but also thrive on linkages to other industries such as deep-sea fishing, cold storage, packaging, transportation and communication as well as retail," Evangelista said.

"Activities of these firms not only benefit those directly employed but also thrive on linkages to other industries such as deep-sea fishing, cold storage, packaging, transportation and communication as well as retail," Evangelista said.

She said GenSan's tuna industry could help push the country's standing in the global tuna trade since it is geared mainly for export.

The city's Otop firms produce some 3,000 metric tons yearly, ringing up $10 million in exports sales yearly and P50 million in domestic revenue.

GenSan's products are shipped to the United States, the Middle East, Germany and Japan and to key cities in the country.

The city's Otop lineup includes scrap sashimi grade tuna meat, chorizo, tocino, lumpia, patties, loaf, embotido, hotdog, ham, siomai, nuggets, tuna cheese roll, dried tuna, panga, belly, tuna paprika.

Evangelista said the Otop Philippines program, of which she is in charge, is also preparing for a first-ever Otop national congress.

She said this is a runup to a big Otop event next year when the originator of the concept—Morihiko Hiramatsu, former governor of Oita prefecture where the One Village One Product campaign began—would visit the country to find out unique experiences in Otop as well as share achievements of other countries.

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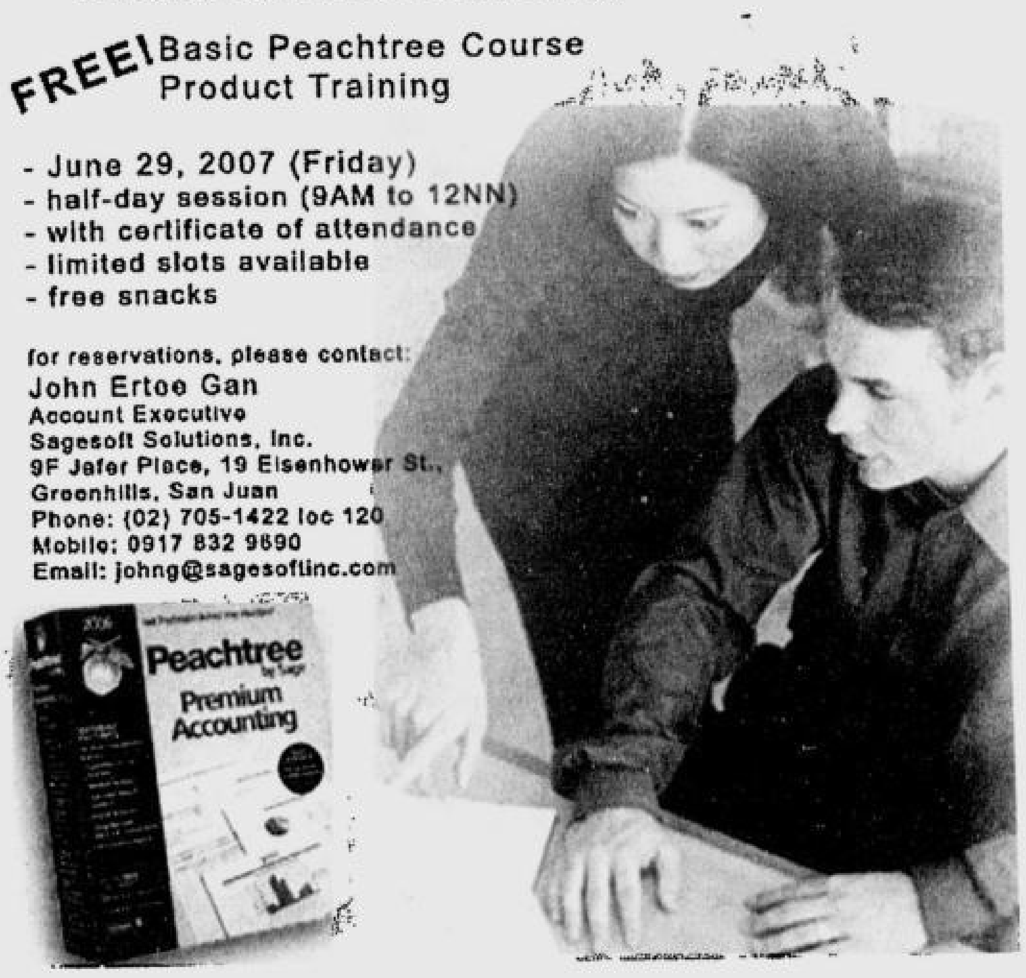

# Winning Transco bidder to get financing support from IFC

**By Abigail L. Ho**

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE Corp., the private sector arm of the World Bank, is willing to provide financing support to whoever will win the bidding for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession, which is scheduled for auction in December.

IFC acting country manager for the Philippines and Thailand Jesse Ang said financing support could range from $200 million to $250 million.

"We're looking forward to working with the winning bidder. That will certainly be cornerstone investment for us because the amount is huge," Ang told reporters.

He did not disclose in what form the financing support would come, however, but said IFC was looking at "all the instruments available."

In a letter to Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. last year, IFC said it was willing to provide debt financing, quasi-equity or equity investments to the winning Transco bidder.

The extension of financing support, however, would be subject to certain conditions, including "some level of comfort" with the winning bidder, the approval of the IFC board, the execution of mutually satisfactory documentation, and the completion of legal, technical and financial due diligence.

Finance Secretary and PSALM chair Margarito Teves earlier said PSALM was laying down more "investor-friendly" provisions in the bidding documents for the concession agreement.

Without citing specifics, he said a number of refinements in the terms of reference should whet investor appetite.

Teves hinted that the refinements included "something about the joint liability" issue raised by the bidders in the last auction.

The improved bidding documents should be completed by September, he said.

For the third time since 2003, the Feb. 5 bidding for the Transco concession was declared a failure when only one of the three pre-qualified bidders—the group composed of Citadel Holdings Corp. (60 percent) and Italy's Terna SPA (40 percent)—submitted a technical and financial bid.

# *Asian currency unit shaping up*

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

BERLIN—THE PROPOSED unified Asian currency unit (ACU) is moving forward with Southeast Asia plus China, Korea and Japan at the core of the initiative toward monetary integration, a German economist and adviser to the Asian Development Bank said.

Alfred Steinherr, chief of the macroeconomic unit of DIW Berlin, Germany's biggest and oldest think-tank, told visiting journalists from Asia and Africa that the proposed monetary integration was shaping up along the lines of the Chiang Mai initiative of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) plus three.

Asean includes the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Burma and Cambodia.

He, however, noted that this would take a long and difficult process for the region.

Steinherr said certain steps had already been taken, but that he couldn't tell when monetary integration would actually happen.

The region's wealthiest nation, Japan is the prime mover of the ACU effort but "the operator of the brakes" is China, he noted.

He said the initiative had been moving forward despite the lack of support from the United States or the International Monetary Fund. He added that the initiative was borne out of painful lessons from the Asian currency crisis of 1997 and the region's disappointment with the IMF's role.

"Since then, Asia is now reflecting on how to cooperate within Asia and become less dependent on the multilateral institutions," Steinherr said.

Over the long term, he said the economic and financial cooperation within Asean plus 3 would evolve into something like the European monetary union, which took 30 years to take off.

He said it would likely be more difficult for Asia because there were only a few big economies and a lot of small ones, unlike the euro zone which has four similarly sized economies—Germany, France, Italy and the UK.

However, he said it was possible to "cut up" the region and focus the initiative within a smaller core group.

Under the Chiang Mai initiative, Asean plus 3 pledged closer economic and financial cooperation to ward off speculative attacks on their currencies, mostly via bilateral swap arrangements.

Under the currency swaps, an Asian country hit by a foreign exchange crisis could borrow foreign currency—usually US dollars—from another country to bolster its reserves until the crisis was over.

# Gov't sees ₱99B in additional VAT collection next year

## To boost chances of hitting a balanced budget

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTing to collect P99.06 billion in additional taxes from the Reformed Value-Added Tax Law (RVAT) next year.

This would be 11 percent higher than the P88.88-billion projected revenue from RVAT this year.

The additional VAT collection is expected to help the government meet its goal of achieving a balanced budget position next year.

RVAT, which took effect in November 2005, was considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda. It expanded the VAT coverage and raised the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent effective February last year.

The targeted additional VAT collection will account for 9 percent of the P1.1-trillion combined collection target of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs should collect for next year.

The implementation of the RVAT was credited for helping the national government substantially trim its deficit last year and help the Philippines get a better outlook from credit ratings agencies.

All major ratings firms—Moody's Investor Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings—revised their outlook on the Philippines from "stable" to "positive," citing the government's political will to implement the RVAT, which was an unpopular measure.

The ratings firms though were one in saying that they have yet to see last year's fiscal improvements sustained in the coming years. The government's fiscal managers believe that posting a balanced budget by next year and trimming the debt, which stands at around P3.9 trillion, were needed to win the favor of credit rating firms.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said, however, that the aim of improving the government's fiscal condition was not to achieve a higher credit rating, but to have more room in the budget for vital expenditures.

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# DOE confirms Shell's Biofuels Law compliance

PILIPINAS SHELL HAS DEMONstrated to the Department of Energy its compliance with the Biofuels Law, which prescribes blending of at least 1 percent of biodiesel in all diesel engine fuels sold in the country.

This was done on the first day of the implementation of the Biofuels Law on May 7, when a DOE team conducted a spot inspection at the Pandacan depot.

The distribution team of Pilipinas Shell, headed by Baste Quiniones, explained to the inspection team its implementation strategy: Coconut methyl ester (CME) is blended with diesel onsite using an automated microblender. A certification was then presented to DOE, showing that Shell Diesoline Ultra contains 1 percent CME, based on the results of a Fuels Laboratory Analysis Report. This means that all diesel engine fuels sold at Shell service stations are already compliant with the newly implemented Biofuels Law.

For other depots, CME is blended at the Tabangao Refinery and then shipped out.

Shell's compliance with the Biofuels Law was confirmed by the energy department.

# CEB now flies to Taipei

CEBU PACIFIC (CEB), THE country's leading domestic airline, started flying direct to Taipei from Manila last June 13.

The new service is scheduled to operate daily to and from the Chang Kai Shek International Airport in Taipei.

CEB's 179-seater Airbus A320 aircraft will be used for this service. The flight leaves Manila at 11:10 a.m., arriving in Taipei at 1:10 p.m. The flight then departs from Taipei at 1:55 p.m. and arrives in Manila at 3:55 pm.

"We hope that with the low fares and the convenient schedule for this new destination, we will be able to attract both business and leisure travelers from Taipei," Candice Iyog, CEB VP for marketing and product, said.

The lowest "Go" fare to Taipei starts from P1,999 one way. Iyog said the best way to purchase tickets was through CEB's website (www.cebupacificair.com).

# Phoenix inks supply deal

EMARAT, ONE OF MAJOR petroleum products refiner in the United Arab Emirates, recently signed a supply agreement with Phoenix Global Mercantile Inc. (PGMI), a wholly owned subsidiary of emerging independent oil player and soon to be listed Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. (PPPI).

PGMI general manager and PPPI director for lubricants and chemicals Alberto Alcid said the agreement called for Phoenix Petroleum to distribute high-grade Emarat lubricants through select Phoenix Petroleum retail outlets throughout the country.

All Emarat lubricants are blended at the Middle East Lubricants Co. in Dubai, UAE.

PPPI plans to execute a strategic distributor rollout plan patterned after a program of one of the major lube marketers in the country, specifically for the product as it projects bringing in 150,000 liters of Emarat lubricants per month.

Phoenix Petroleum is engaged in the business of trading refined petroleum products, lubricants and other chemical products, operation of oil depots and storage facilities, and allied services, mainly in Southern Philippines.

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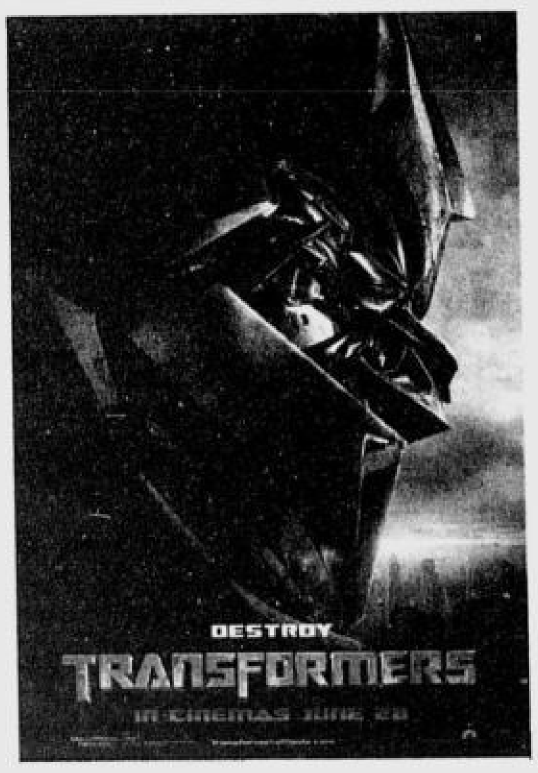

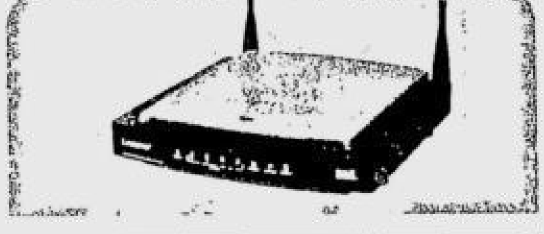

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# Robinsons buys 1-ha lot, eyes mixed-use complex

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY DEVELOPER ROBINSONS LAND Corp. (RLC) said it has signed an agreement with Professional Services Inc. (PSI) to purchase a one-hectare lot at the old site of The Medical City in Mandaluyong City.

RLC said in a disclosure to the stock exchange that it plans to transform the lot into a mixed-use complex comprising of high rise residential towers, a commercial center and a hotel.

The company did not disclose how much it paid for the lot.

For the residential condos, units may be available in one, two and three-bedroom cuts to target Fil-Americans, professionals, investors and expatriates, RLC said in a statement.

The site offers access to malls, major five-star hotels, exclusive schools, restaurants, gyms, banks, business establishments and major city thoroughfares.

The latest acquisition signals the continuous strategic land banking for the highly diversified conglomerate—particularly in central business districts.

RLC has several prime properties in Ortigas led by its flagship mall, the Robinsons Galleria, five-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Galleria Regency, Robinsons Equitable Tower, Galleria Corporate Center and the soon to be erected East of Galleria Residences.

RLC is the real-estate arm of JG Summit Holdings Inc., (JGSHI), one of the country's largest conglomerates with interests in branded consumers foods, agro-industrial and commodity food products, textile, telecommunications, petrochemicals, air transportation and financial services.

# Market …

From page B1

AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report that movements in the US bond market will be closely tracked.

"Stocks (last week) initially fell when the yield on the US 10-year Treasury note soared to a five-year high of 5.295 percent," AB Capital Securities said.

"However, external concerns were erased when economic data from the US showed benign inflation and modest growth," AB Capital added. "This prompted one of the strongest two-day rallies in the US market."

Last week, the Philippine market also soared and reached a new all-time high, closing at 3,671.29.

It posted a gain of 144.56 points or 4.1 percent week-on-week.

AB Capital noted that worries on interest rates emerged last week as US bond yields suddenly soared.

"Higher interest rates can slow down the flow of money to the market and the economy," AB Capital said. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

# Sustaining 6.9 percent

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*Cielito F. Habito*

IS THE ECONOMY INDEED ON A roll? Recent reports would seem to suggest so.

Overall output and incomes, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) reportedly rose by 6.9 percent in the first three months of 2007.

Last Friday, unemployment rate was reported to have dropped to 7.4 percent in April, against last year's 8.2 percent. The local stock market hit another all-time high last week, with the index now approaching 3,700. Other bits and pieces of good news on the economy have been coming our way lately, although there continues to be a mix of some bad news with the good.

## Sources of growth

When news on the first quarter growth came out two weeks ago, the questions on people's mind seemed to be: Is it true? Is it sustainable? Perhaps we have become so used to bad news lately that seemingly good news is seen by most of us to be either too good to be true, or too good to last.

In addressing these questions objectively, the key thing to ask would be where the supposed growth in the economy is coming from.

On the production side, growth was boosted, as usual, by the services sector, which grew by 9.1 percent. Strongest drivers of this sector were finance (13.4 percent growth); transport, communication and storage (9.6 percent); and wholesale and retail trade (9.1 percent). Private services, which include tourism-related services, grew 8.9 percent, while government services grew its fastest in recent memory, at 7.1 percent.

Meanwhile, industry grew by a respectable 5.3 percent, whereas agriculture continues to trail behind with a 4.2 percent growth. The last, however, is still good news as it is a dramatic recovery from the skimpy 1.7 percent growth posted by the farm sector in the last quarter of last year.

## Who's buying?

The above numbers trace the economy's growth from the supply side.

The other perspective to look from is the demand or expenditure side, i.e. ask who have been buying the goods and services produced by the economy, and how fast has such demand been growing.

We've often heard it said that our economy's growth is propelled mostly by people's consumption spending, (5.9 percent growth in the first quarter), fueled to a large extent by income from overseas remittances.

This component indeed remains responsible for the bulk of the economy's purchases of goods and services. But what really pushed overall growth beyond everyone's (including government's) expectations were two things: government consumption, which grew by 13.1 percent, and exports, which grew by 9.1 percent.

It is these two components which posted growths well beyond the economy-wide 6.9 percent. Thus, they were the items that gave us the unexpected boost well beyond the 5.2-5.8 percent growth expected by both government and private analysts.

Investment expenditures—the remaining component of expenditures and to many, the most important one—hardly grew at all, posting a mere 0.6 percent growth.

In fact, investments in durable equipment continued to fall (-0.4 percent), which is bad news considering that this has consistently been falling for over two years now. It was only a double-digit growth (16.9 percent) in government construction that gave overall investment the push to make its growth slightly positive.

## Too good to last?

I will not address the matter of whether the 6.9 percent GDP growth is too good to be true, as I know the people in our statistical agencies to be honorable professionals.

There remains the question on the reliability of our statistics on manufacturing, highlighted by the contradiction between two major sources of data on the sector, but we are assured by the government statisticians that they have been addressing the problem.

But will the 6.9-percent growth last? I went through the above exercise examining components of growth precisely to help us answer this question.

What clearly propelled the surprising growth were unusually high government spending (public construction and government consumption, which grew 16.9 and 13.1 percent respectively) and good export growth (9.1 percent).

Unless you were born yesterday, it's plain to see that the May elections were responsible for this. I should note that even the slightly better private consumption growth must have been pushed up by the massive spending on election campaign materials—not to mention vote-buying.

The problem is, news on government revenues has not been good lately. Unless this trend is turned around dramatically, government is in no position to spend as briskly as it did in the first quarter.

## Export slowdown

The other propellant of the growth had been exports. Here, the short term outlook doesn't look encouraging either. Latest export data show a significant slowdown in April to just 5 percent growth.

Such a slowdown had been expected, due to generally slower demand for electronics in the global market—and we rely on this industry for two-thirds of our exports.

This tells me that it is investments we need to work hard on.

Foreign investments are not a problem, mind you; data tell us that they have been grown phenomenally in the past year or so. It is the stakes put in by domestic investors that needs a big boost.

Will the continuing stream of good news finally turn their sentiments around? Let's hope so. But I can tell even now that sustaining 6.9 percent through the rest of 2007 will be a long shot. *Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 17, 2007)

| 52-WEEK HIGH | 52-WEEK LOW | STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **BANKS** | | | | | |
| 17.5 | 5.1 | Asiatrust Development Bank Inc. | 11.5 | 11.75 | 11.5 | 11.75 | 268,500 |
| 71 | 30.5 | Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc. | 70.5 | 71 | 70 | 71 | 971,000 |
| 73 | 42.5 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 73 | 73 | 72 | 72.5 | 2,684,500 |
| 935 | 630 | China Banking Corp. | 895 | 900 | 895 | 900 | 1,580 |
| 0.63 | 0.36 | Export and Industry Bank, Inc | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 2,360,000 |
| 72 | 30.5 | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. | 71.5 | 72 | 71.5 | 72 | 7,289,900 |
| 56.5 | 31 | Philippine National Bank | 53.5 | 54 | 53.5 | 53.5 | 140,300 |
| 68 | 38.5 | Philippine Savings Bank | 63 | 64 | 63 | 64 | 43,800 |
| 39.57 | 14.13 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 33 | 35 | 33 | 34.5 | 3,493,700 |
| 90 | 41 | Security Bank Corp. | 84 | 85.5 | 84 | 84.5 | 314,400 |
| 66 | 41.54 | Union Bank of the Philippines | 63 | 63 | 62.5 | 62.5 | 105,500 |
| | | **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| 1.46 | 0.6 | Bankard Inc | 1.24 | 1.24 | 1.04 | 1.14 | 2,742,000 |
| 9 | 1.5 | CitisecOnline.com Inc. | 8.8 | 9 | 8.6 | 9 | 531,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.4 | First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 200,000 |
| 39 | 28 | First Metro Investment Corp. | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 1,000 |
| 1,710.00 | 1,500.00 | Manulife Financial Corp. | 1,660.00 | 1,660.00 | 1,660.00 | 1,660.00 | 500 |
| 5 | 4.05 | National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils. | 4.45 | 4.5 | 4.35 | 4.45 | 26,371,000 |
| 2.95 | 0.99 | PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 141,000 |
| 1,005.00 | 210 | The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc | 660 | 670 | 655 | 670 | 9,580 |
| 2,250.00 | 1,895.00 | Sun Life Financial Inc. | 2,100.00 | 2,100.00 | 2,100.00 | 2,100.00 | 170 |
| 1.94 | 1.16 | Vantage Corp. | 1.7 | 1.72 | 1.68 | 1.7 | 2,109,000 |
| | | **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| 65.5 | 41 | First Gen Corp. | 65.5 | 65.5 | 64.5 | 65.5 | 2,250,100 |
| 88 | 41 | First Phil. Holdings Corp. | 85.5 | 86.5 | 85.5 | 86 | 1,573,600 |
| 12.75 | 6.9 | Manila Water Co. Inc. | 12 | 12 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 1,863,500 |
| 102 | 13.75 | Manila Electric Co. "A" | 96.5 | 97.5 | 96.5 | 97 | 297,100 |
| 104 | 20.25 | Manila Electric Co. "B" | 98.5 | 98.5 | 97.5 | 98 | 1,982,400 |
| 6.8 | 4.1 | PNOC Energy Development Corp. | 6 | 6 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5,694,000 |
| 5.7 | 3.4 | Petron Corp. | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 3,613,000 |
| 2.5 | 1.6 | Salcon Power Corp. | 2.2 | 2.24 | 2.2 | 2.22 | 125,000 |
| 1.62 | 0.9 | Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.52 | 1.54 | 1,171,000 |
| | | **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| 5.9 | 2.85 | Alaska Milk Corp | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 170,000 |
| 2.95 | 1.88 | Alliance Tuna International Inc. | 2.28 | 2.34 | 2.24 | 2.34 | 1,605,000 |
| 8 | 1.9 | Central Azucarera De Tarlac | 2.65 | 2.65 | 2.65 | 2.65 | 115,000 |
| 28.5 | 19.5 | Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 26 | 26 | 25.5 | 26 | 29,600 |
| 61 | 30 | Jollibee Foods Corp. | 54 | 54.5 | 53.5 | 54 | 1,405,300 |
| 7 | 3.5 | Pancake House Inc. | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5,000 |
| 10.25 | 10 | Phil. Tob. Flue Curing and Redry Corp. | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 5,300 |
| 1.9 | 0.77 | RFM Corp. | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1.7 | 1.74 | 1,004,000 |
| 4.05 | 2.2 | Roxas Holdings | 2.42 | 2.42 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 913,000 |
| 80 | 61 | San Miguel Corp. "A" | 66.5 | 67.5 | 66.5 | 67 | 219,000 |
| 88 | 68.5 | San Miguel Corp. "B" | 73 | 75 | 73 | 73.5 | 330,200 |
| 0.61 | 0.2 | Swift Foods Inc. | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 900,000 |
| 22 | 15.25 | Universal Robina Corp | 17.5 | 18 | 17.5 | 17.75 | 12,[illegible],500 |
| | | **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 5.6 | 1.13 | EEI Corp. | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 752,000 |
| 9.2 | 4.2 | Holcim Philippines Inc. | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.4 | 462,000 |
| 7 | 1.2 | Republic Cement Corp. | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 75,000 |
| 2 | 0.245 | Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1.76 | 1.78 | 975,000 |
| | | **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| 6.3 | 1.42 | Chemrez Technologies Inc. | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 1,553,000 |
| 2.5 | 2 | Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc. | 2 | 2.4 | 2 | 2.4 | 8,000 |
| 1.32 | 0.51 | Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 1.02 | 1.04 | 1.02 | 1.04 | 310,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 0.35 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| | | **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| 3.9 | 1.7 | A. Soriano Corp | 3.65 | 3.65 | 3.65 | 3.65 | 25,000 |
| 0.145 | 0.022 | AJO.net Holdings Inc. | 0.14 | 0.145 | 0.125 | 0.125 | 499,290,000 |
| 1.16 | 0.18 | APC Group Inc. | 1.14 | 1.16 | 1.1 | 1.12 | 62,538,000 |
| 3.6 | 1.4 | ATN Holdings Inc. "A" | 2.1 | 2.12 | 2.1 | 2.12 | 97,000 |
| 0.018 | 0.006 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A" | 0.013 | 0.014 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 321,200,000 |
| 0.019 | 0.0065 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B" | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 4,000,000 |
| 9.7 | 4.85 | Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 2,341,000 |
| 0.017 | 0.0065 | Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. | 0.016 | 0.017 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 882,000,000 |
| 1.2 | 0.45 | Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. | 1.1 | 1.12 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1,505,000 |
| 1.5 | 0.085 | Asia Amalgamated Holdings Corp. | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.98 | 1.1 | 481,000 |
| 2.9 | 0.89 | Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp. | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2,926,000 |
| 16 | 4.5 | Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc. "A" | 16 | 16 | 11 | 15.25 | 600 |
| 590 | 272.92 | Ayala Corp. | 570 | 590 | 570 | 580 | 482,190 |
| 12.5 | 6.96 | Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 6,000 |
| 6.9 | 0.7 | Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. | 4.6 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 540,000 |
| 5.4 | 0.97 | Benpres Holdings Corp. | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5 | 5.1 | 20,658,000 |
| 9.8 | 3.25 | DMCI Holdings Inc. | 9.2 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 3,847,000 |
| 1.9 | 0.7 | F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A" | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 191,000 |
| 6.7 | 2.55 | Filinvest Development Corp. | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 1,168,000 |
| 3.55 | 1.14 | House of Investments Inc. | 2.85 | 2.9 | 2.85 | 2.9 | 214,000 |
| 14.5 | 5.3 | JG Summit Holdings Inc. | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.75 | 683,500 |
| 2.7 | 0.61 | Jolliville Holdings Corp. | 2.65 | 2.65 | 2.65 | 2.65 | 1,000 |
| 2.85 | 1.42 | Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. "B" | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 10,000 |
| 0.69 | 0.185 | Medco Holdings Inc. | 0.65 | 0.69 | 0.64 | 0.68 | 3,400,000 |
| 0.88 | 0.1 | Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 0.72 | 50,000 |
| 30 | 0.88 | Magnum Holdings Inc. | 25.5 | 25.5 | 23.75 | 24.25 | 1,290,100 |
| 9.5 | 0.19 | Multitech Investments Corp. | 9.5 | 9.5 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 18,979,000 |
| 0.034 | 0.009 | Pacifica Inc. "A" | 0.032 | 0.033 | 0.031 | 0.032 | 48,500,000 |
| 1.54 | 0.8 | Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 1.08 | 1.54 | 1.08 | 1.26 | 1,846,000 |
| 0.63 | 0.16 | Prime Orion Philippines Inc. | 0.53 | 0.55 | 0.53 | 0.55 | 6,330,000 |
| 450 | 205 | SM Investments Corp. | 440 | 442.5 | 437.5 | 440 | 721,140 |
| 2.2 | 0.62 | Seafront Resources Corp. | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.72 | 1.74 | 69,000 |
| 0.73 | 0.115 | Sinophil Corp. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.62 | 0.63 | 33,810,000 |
| 1.06 | 0.51 | Solid Group Inc. | 0.91 | 0.93 | 0.91 | 0.92 | 940,000 |
| 1.6 | 0.68 | South China Resources Inc. | 1.58 | 1.58 | 1.58 | 1.58 | 72,000 |
| 0.49 | 0.08 | Wellex Industries Inc | 0.47 | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.47 | 53,400,000 |
| 0.69 | 0.155 | Zeus Holdings Inc | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.62 | 0.67 | 530,000 |
| | | **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| 2.16 | 0.75 | A Brown Co. Inc | 1.78 | 1.8 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1,055,000 |
| 0.92 | 0.3 | Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.81 | 0.86 | 0.8 | 0.83 | 1,130,000 |
| 18 | 8.54 | Ayala Land Inc. | 17.5 | 18 | 17.5 | 17.75 | 30,621,700 |
| 1.76 | 0.99 | Belle Corp | 1.68 | 1.7 | 1.68 | 1.68 | 6,283,000 |
| 4.7 | 1.8 | Cebu Holdings Inc. | 4.55 | 4.55 | 4.35 | 4.5 | 89,000 |
| 0.72 | 0.245 | Crown Equities Inc. | 0.68 | 0.72 | 0.68 | 0.69 | 16,050,000 |
| 0.6 | 0.165 | Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.54 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.55 | 3,600,000 |
| 3.1 | 0.72 | Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 460,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.44 | Empire East Land Holdings Inc. | 0.86 | 0.86 | 0.84 | 0.85 | 72,890,000 |
| 0.32 | 0.027 | Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc. | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 24,040,000 |
| 1.24 | 0.38 | Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 1.22 | 1.24 | 1.16 | 1.18 | 29,713,000 |
| 2.04 | 0.93 | Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.98 | 1.98 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 25,530,000 |
| 0.016 | 0.0038 | Interport Resources Corp. "A" | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 719,300,000 |
| 0.016 | 0.005 | Interport Resources Corp. "B" | 0.015 | 0.016 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 406,300,000 |
| 2 | 0.74 | Keppel Philippines Properties Inc. | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 40,000 |
| 0.69 | 0.2 | Kuok Phil. Properties Inc. | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0.43 | 0.44 | 42,560,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.18 | MRC Allied Industries Inc. | 0.89 | 0.94 | 0.87 | 0.93 | 33,540,000 |
| 4.4 | 1.26 | Megaworld Corp. | 4.25 | 4.4 | 4.15 | 4.2 | 44,981,000 |
| 6.4 | 1.5 | Metro Pacific Investments Corp. | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 92,000 |
| 0.58 | 0.1 | Phil. Estates Corp. | 0.54 | 0.58 | 0.53 | 0.56 | 45,480,000 |
| 0.87 | 0.25 | Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. | 0.63 | 0.67 | 0.63 | 0.64 | 39,540,000 |
| 5.8 | 1.1 | Polar Property Holdings Corp. | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 100,000 |
| 23 | 9.6 | Robinson Land Corp. | 20.25 | 21 | 20.25 | 21 | 6,418,800 |
| 5.4 | 1.23 | SM Development Corp. | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 3,781,000 |
| 14 | 7 | SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13,234,800 |
| 0.96 | 0.51 | Suntrust Home Developers Inc. | 0.81 | 0.86 | 0.81 | 0.83 | 11,260,000 |
| 0.36 | 0.06 | Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.32 | 0.35 | 21,130,000 |
| 4.5 | 0.3 | Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc | 1.5 | 3.75 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 13,[illegible] |
| | | **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| 34 | 13.75 | ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp | 31 | 32 | 31 | 31.5 | [illegible] |
| 1.14 | 0.97 | Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 27,000 |
| | | **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| 2.12 | 1.14 | Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. | 1.52 | 1.54 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1,806,000 |
| 1,445.00 | 880 | Globe Telecom Inc. | 1,425.00 | 1,425.00 | 1,415.00 | 1,420.00 | 124,280 |
| 2,820.00 | 1,700.00 | Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co. | 2,700.00 | 2,730.00 | 2,695.00 | 2,705.00 | 178,850 |
| 7.9 | 3.15 | Pilipino Telephone Corp. | 7.1 | 7.1 | 6.9 | 7 | [illegible] |
| | | **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| 0.39 | 0.16 | Boulevard Holdings Inc | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 7,460,000 |
| 10.25 | 2 | Diversified Financial Network Inc. | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9 | 9 | 7,000 |
| 7.6 | 2 | IPVG Corp. | 6 | 6 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 275,000 |
| 0.0525 | 0.0263 | ISM Communications Corp. | 0.045 | 0.045 | 0.042 | 0.043 | 171,100,000 |
| 2.9 | 1.8 | Ionics Inc. | 2.3 | 2.36 | 2.2 | 2.24 | 3,666,000 |
| 0.0875 | 0.038 | Island Information and Technology Inc. | 0.08 | 0.0825 | 0.08 | 0.0825 | 29,200,000 |
| 2.08 | 1.12 | Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.9 | 2.08 | 1.9 | 1.92 | 2,459,000 |
| 0.06 | 0.027 | Philweb Corp. | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 0.0525 | 0.055 | 319,700,000 |
| 5.8 | 1 | Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc | 2.44 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 13,120,000 |
| | | **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 1.58 | 1.14 | Aboitiz Transport System Corp | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.7 | 1.7 | [illegible] |
| 6.8 | 2.5 | Asian Terminals Inc. | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6 | 6 | 90,000 |
| 32 | 12.75 | Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc. | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28 | 28.5 | 1,195,400 |
| 2.14 | 0.86 | Keppel Philippines Marine Inc. | 1.94 | 2 | 1.94 | 2 | 671,000 |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 20,000 |
| | | **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| 16.5 | 3.6 | Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 6,000 |
| 4.25 | 1.26 | Leisure and Resorts World Corp. | 3.45 | 3.45 | 3.45 | 3.45 | 1,442,000 |
| 4.55 | 2.8 | Philippine Racing Club Inc. | 3.9 | 4 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 252,000 |
| 0.98 | 0.18 | Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. | 0.91 | 0.92 | 0.84 | 0.84 | 4,450,000 |
| [illegible] | 0.42 | Waterfront Philippines Inc | 1.04 | 1.08 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| | | **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| [illegible] | 1.66 | Macroasia Corp | 4.9 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 17.25 | 13 | Pacific Online Systems Corp. | 16 | 16 | 15.5 | 15.75 | 371,200 |
| 30 | 9.6 | Paxys Inc. | 25.5 | 27 | 25 | 25 | 1,220,500 |
| 4 | 1.3 | Philippine Seven Corp | 1.3 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 2.8 | 10,000 |
| | | **MINING** | | | | | |
| 0.018 | 0.007 | Abra Mining and Industrial Corp. | 0.015 | 0.016 | 0.015 | 0.015 | [illegible] |
| 7.6 | 3 | Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A" | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 276,000 |
| 7.7 | 3 | Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B" | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 274,000 |
| 21.25 | 5.7 | Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp. | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18 | 18.25 | 768,700 |
| 14.25 | 8.7 | Benguet Corp. "A" | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 33,600 |
| 5 | 1.7 | Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc. | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 125,000 |
| 2.85 | 0.0602 | Geograce Resources Philippines Inc. | 2.46 | 2.46 | 2.32 | 2.34 | 97,872,000 |
| 0.35 | 0.215 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A" | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 3,360,000 |
| 0.42 | 0.225 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B" | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3,080,000 |
| 0.038 | 0.017 | Manila Mining Corp. "A" | 0.035 | 0.036 | 0.034 | 0.036 | 384,900,000 |
| 0.041 | 0.017 | Manila Mining Corp. "B" | 0.036 | 0.037 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 113,700,000 |
| 0.024 | 0.0075 | Omico Corp. | 0.021 | 0.021 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 432,800,000 |
| 6.4 | 2.8 | Philex Mining Corp. | 5.9 | 6 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5,890,000 |
| 30 | 14.75 | Semirara Mining Corp. | 27 | 27 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 34,000 |
| 1.36 | 0.29 | United Paragon Mining Corp | 1.22 | 1.22 | 1.18 | 1.2 | 2,586,000 |
| 1.8 | 0.43 | Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.44 | 1.44 | 3,166,000 |
| | | **OIL** | | | | | |
| 0.58 | 0.23 | Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.46 | 0.48 | 0.44 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| 0.025 | 0.0085 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A" | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.023 | 0.024 | 100,200,000 |
| 0.027 | 0.0095 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B" | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 125,800,000 |
| 14.62 | 9 | Petroenergy Resources Corp. | 10.25 | 10.5 | 10.25 | 10.5 | 31,500 |
| 0.028 | 0.0089 | The Philodrill Corp. | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 1,241,900,000 |

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

## CURRENCIES

| June 17, 2007 Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.751202 | 1.000000 | 46.5090 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006114 | 0.008139 | 0.3785 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.479793 | 1.969900 | 91.6181 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.096101 | 0.127930 | 5.9499 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.602746 | 0.802375 | 37.3177 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.703043 | 0.935891 | 43.5274 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.487129 | 0.648466 | 30.1595 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.627308 | 0.835073 | 38.8384 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 1.992684 | 2.652661 | 123.3726 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.200304 | 0.266645 | 12.4014 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.485555 | 0.646371 | 30.0621 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000083 | 0.000110 | 0.0051 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.023221 | 0.030912 | 1.4377 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.204537 | 0.272279 | 12.6634 |
| EU | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.331200 | 61.9128 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000808 | 0.001076 | 0.0500 |
| China | Yuan** | 0.098287 | 0.130839 | 6.0852 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.244452 | 0.325415 | 15.1347 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.388921 | 0.517732 | 24.0792 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134345 | 0.178840 | 8.3177 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018484 | 0.024606 | 1.1444 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.216922 | 0.288767 | 13.4303 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.069102 | 0.091988 | 4.2783 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.563627 | 0.750300 | 34.8957 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.104697 | 0.139373 | 6.4821 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.022707 | 0.030228 | 1.4059 |

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—June 14, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of June 14, 2007

FVR CLUB SHARES SPECIALIST, INC.
A SUBSIDIARY OF FRANCISCO V DEL ROSARIO HOLDINGS, INC.
Your Trusted Specialist Broker since 1982
SEC. LICENSE #BD-00129
as of June 15, 2007
25TH YEAR

| SELLING | | BUYING | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ALABANG B | PLS.CALL | ALABANG A | 1.080M |
| CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB | 470K | BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 550K |
| CANYON WOODS | 100K | CANLUBANG GOLF | PLS.CALL |
| CC CLUB @ TAGAYTAY | 300K | CLUB FILIPINO | 80K |
| CLUB PUNTA FUEGO | 380K | EAGLERIDGE C | 330K |
| EAGLERIDGE A | 150K | FONTANA D | 55K |
| EAGLERIDGE B | 250K | MAKATI SPORTS A | 180K |
| EASTRIDGE | 225K | MANILA GOLF CORP. | 20.0M |
| FONTANA B | 150K | MANILA GOLF CLUB IND. | 18.0M |
| FORESTHILLS B | 180K | MANILA POLO CLUB | 3.7M |
| MANILA POLO CLUB | 4.0M | MANILA YACHT CLUB | 200K |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS A | 300K | MIMOSA C-1 | 210K |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS B | 650K | MIMOSA C-3 | 550K |
| MANILA YACHT CLUB IND. | 350K | ORCHARD A | 150K |
| MIMOSA C3 | 600K | ORCHARD B | PLS.CALL |
| ORCHARD B | 280K | ORCHARD C | 330K |
| ORCHARD C | 380K | ROCKWELL CLUB | 230K |
| RIVIERA C | 250K | STA. ELENA A | 1.6M |
| SPLENDIDO | 250K | TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | PLS.CALL |
| STA. ELENA B | 2.150M | VALLE VERDE-IND. | 80K |
| SUMMIT POINT | 350K | VALLEY GOLF | 200K |
| TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | 680K | WACK WACK GOLF | 8.3M |

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Please contact AMIE, VIRGIE OR REY
Tel#s 8186936/8186991/8926193
Fax# 8185453; email: fvrhi@info.com.ph
Please visit our website at www.fvrhi.com
GF Tuscan Bldg. 114 V.A Rufino St. Legaspi Village, Makati City

GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker No.: BD-00131
Quotation as of June 18, 2007

| CLUB | SELLER | BUYER |
|---|---|---|
| ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 1,150,000 | 1,080,000 |
| ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 1,250,000 | 1,200,000 |
| BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 600,000 | 550,000 |
| CAMP JOHN HAY | 280,000 | 260,000 |
| CANLUBANG | 470,000 | 430,000 |
| CANYON WOODS | 90,000 | - |
| CAPITOL HILLS | 40,000 | - |
| CEBU COUNTRY CLUB | - | 1,900,000 |
| CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB | 120,000 | 90,000 |
| CLUB FILIPINO | 90,000 | 80,000 |
| EAGLERIDGE "B" | 250,000 | - |
| EAGLERIDGE "C" | 370,000 | 320,000 |
| FOREST HILLS "A" | 85,000 | - |
| LUISITA GOLF "A" | 350,000 | 270,000 |
| MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A" | 200,000 | 180,000 |
| MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B" | 220,000 | - |
| MANILA GOLF (CORP) | - | 18,000,000 |
| MANILA GOLF (IND) | - | 17,500,000 |
| MANILA POLO | Please Call | 3,800,000 |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A" | 290,000 | 270,000 |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B" | 670,000 | 630,000 |
| MANILA YACHT CLUB | 200,000 | 150,000 |
| MIMOSA (IND) | 230,000 | - |
| MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A" | 170,000 | - |
| ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A" | 180,000 | 160,000 |
| ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B" | 280,000 | 250,000 |
| ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C" | 350,000 | 330,000 |
| QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB | 170,000 | 140,000 |
| ROCKWELL CLUB | 300,000 | 230,000 |
| SPA & LODGE | Please Call | 550,000 |
| STA. ELENA "A" | - | 1,600,000 |
| STA. ELENA "B" | 2,200,000 | - |
| TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB | 320,000 | 200,000 |
| TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | 700,000 | 650,000 |
| TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 670,000 | 620,000 |
| THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 360,000 | 330,000 |
| VALLE VERDE (IND) | 100,000 | 75,000 |
| VALLEY GOLF | 250,000 | 200,000 |
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# Shell seen opting for refinery upgrade

## Expansion of existing facilities expected to cost much more

By Abigail L. Ho

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORP. is expected to spend about P15 billion to upgrade its existing refinery to pave the way for an in-country production of Clean Air Act-compliant fuels.

An industry source said the amount needed for the refinery upgrade should be at about the same level as that spent by Petron Corp. for its own refinery upgrading project.

Two years ago, Petron inaugurated its new facilities at its Bataan refinery worth $100 million. These made the oil company the first in the country to be able to produce its own Clean Air Act-compliant fuels.

Petron's gasoil hydrotreater and light virgin naphtha isomerization unit can produce 22,000 barrels and 10,000 barrels a day, respectively, of CAA-compliant diesel and gasoline.

Another $300 million was earmarked for the oil firm's three-year Refinery Master Plan, which would enable it to extract petrochemicals for both the local and regional markets.

Asked for confirmation, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said he had been informed that the results of the refinery study , which was commissioned by the oil company, should be out by the third quarter.

Shell's decision whether to expand its refinery or to just upgrade would depend on the results of that study, he said.

"It is not in the same scale as the refinery expansion that they were looking at before, but they will have to upgrade their refinery. It will still be a multi-billion-peso project," he said.

He did not give specific investment figures but, in an earlier interview, he had said a refinery expansion would entail investments of as much as $1 billion to $1.5 billion.

A refinery upgrade would be less costly, considering Petron's total outlay of around $400 million.

Lotilla had earlier said that Shell's parent firm, Royal Dutch Shell Plc, had concerns regarding the current incentive schemes in the downstream oil sector.

"What they want is for those incentives that were made available at the time they came in to still be available throughout the life of their investment," he said.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua said earlier that a tariff differential could be a big help from the government.

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# FTI sale pushed; more small food terminals sought

By Amy R. Remo

THE 120-HECTARE FOOD TERMINALS Inc. facility in Taguig is a good and valid concept, but it is way ahead of its time, said an official of the Cold Chain Association of the Philippines.

"FTI holds a strategic relevance and importance to Metro Manila. Taguig is a good location for this facility, but the area is too big," said CCAP president Anthony Dizon.

"If we were to build something as big as that, it has to be somewhere else," he added.

Dizon said there was no other option but to privatize the facility or sell the land.

This is similar to the decision of the Department of Agriculture to reject proposals to revert the FTI property to its original purpose and put it up for sale.

The facility was designed as a food processing and consolidation center for agriculture products.

As the only agro-industrial-commercial estate located in the heart of Metro Manila, FTI houses more than 300 small- to medium-scale companies involved in food manufacturing, electronics, garments and service industries.

"What we should do is to build smaller terminals and facilities like FTI in various parts of the country such as Central Luzon, Nueva Vizcaya or Bicol where are they are needed," Dizon said.

What's important, he said, was to build these centers close to either the source of the produce or the markets' end consumers.

Otherwise, he said, these storage facilities would be underutilized, while the farmers would end up selling their excess produce in the highways or stock them.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier said the department was planning to break up big processing and consolidation centers and put up more smaller centers in various provinces nationwide.

Yap also said that proceeds from the sale of the FTI property would be used to invest in smaller regional processing centers in North Mindanao, Davao, southern Mindanao, western Visayas, eastern Visayas , Regions 1 and 2, and Central Luzon.

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# DA shows off new 'poster boys'

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN FILIPINO farmers are stereotyped as scrawny, barefooted workers in stained, tattered clothes.

YAP

The face of the Filipino farmer must be replaced with images of successful farmers, whose outstanding feats should be replicated across the country, said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

The Department of Agriculture has recently identified its "poster boys"—five farmer-entrepreneurs whose impressive feats, according to Yap, can help ensure the sustainability of agriculture growth.

Yap said their achievements would become the "linchpin" of the department's five-point program, which aims to raise productivity and increase farmers' income.

He said these farmers include Antonio Villanueva Sr. from Ilocos Sur, who earns P700,000 yearly from his 2.5-hectare riceland; Jojo Garcia of Nueva Ecjia, who produces 250 cavans of rice a hectare, which is about three times more than the national average of 75 cavans; and Roberto Ballon of Zamboanga Sibugay, who has transformed his town of Kabasalan into a major fish and oyster supplier to Pagadian, Zamboanga, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.

Isabela farmers Rogelio Manangan, who has acquired tractors and jeepneys from his corn earnings, and Philippe Andrew Maramba, who earns about P500,000 a hectare from growing eggplants, hot pepper, *ampalaya* and other vegetables, should likewise be emulated, he added.

These model farmers were presented in a media forum where the agriculture secretary explained his five-point program, which focuses on higher public spending for infrastructure, technology and extension services, postharvest and storage facilities, expansion of access to rural credit, and expansion of market access here and abroad.

"In all the interactions and dialogues I have participated, I have observed that the common vein that drives these champion farmers is the 'profit motive'," Yap said.

He explained that these farmers had asked the right question when they asked "How much can I earn from what I produce?" rather than "How much can I produce?"

Emulating the feats of these successful farmers would help the agriculture sector increase its annual growth from the current average of 3-4 percent to at least 5-6 percent in the next 10 years.

It would also help achieve agriculture growth targets of 4-5 percent this year and a higher 7-8 percent in 2008. *Amy R. Remo*

# PSE cites surge in foreign buying

From page B1

litical leaders maintain their sense of maturity and sobriety."

Other market indicators also reflected investors' bullish sentiment.

Lim noted that, at the end of May 2007, total market capitalization hit the P8-trillion mark. The amount was 11.7 percent higher than the P7.17-trillion total market capitalization at the end of 2006.

Of the total, market capital of listed domestic companies reached P4.1 trillion, or 22.2 percent higher than its P3.35-trillion level at the end of 2006. Last month also marked the first time market capitalization of domestic listed companies hit the P4-trillion mark.

"Our market continues its advance as investors infuse more funds to our market," Lim said. "This is shown by the dramatic surge in our value turnover."

Total value turnover during the first five months of the year reached P499.78 billion, or 134.1 percent more than the P213.45-billion posted during the same period last year.

Average daily value turnover from January to May expanded by 138.7 percent to P4.85 billion from the P2.03 billion of last year.

"The continued interest of foreign investors will definitely play a key role in our bid to sustain the market's drive to new highs," Lim said. "But we want local investors to join so they can also enjoy the benefits from the market's advance.

"I am, in fact, very happy to note that, while foreign transactions continue to go up, local buying posted a more impressive jump," Lim said.

Based on PSE data, local buying for the first months of the year tripled to P219.5 billion from the P72.3 billion of the same period last year.

At the end of May, prices of 207 issues were up, those of 39 others were down, while prices of nine issues were unchanged compared to their levels at the end of 2006.

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# Go ahead, jazz up your phone

By Abigail L. Ho

THE WORLD'S ADDICTION to the mobile phone has turned the device into more than just a communication tool. The cellular phone can now be considered a status symbol, a security blanket and even a representation of the user's identity.

Because of this, many mobile phone users across the globe are spending considerable amounts to jazz up their devices with accessories ranging from the simple to the high-tech.

According to New York-based ABI Research, global spending on mobile phone accessories will reach more than $32 billion this year, even more than the $28 billion in revenues expected from the booming smartphone market.

Of this amount, 77 percent will come from sales of "after-market" accessories, and the balance from "in-box" accessory shipments, a study titled "Mobile Phone Accessories" states.

Some examples of handset accessories are Bluetooth headsets and earpieces, wireless keyboards, charging solutions, car kits, speakers, carrying cases, housings, tripods, and even cellphone "jewelry."

ABI Research industry analyst Shailendra Pandey said technology advancements and the increasing demand for handset personalization would continue to prompt accessories manufacturers to roll out new products.

"Handset vendors and mobile operators are showing greater interest, as accessories provide high margins and also opportunities to promote their brand and expand their product offerings. The growing interest among mobile operators is also driven by the realization that mobile phone accessories can lead to higher (average revenue per user)," she said.

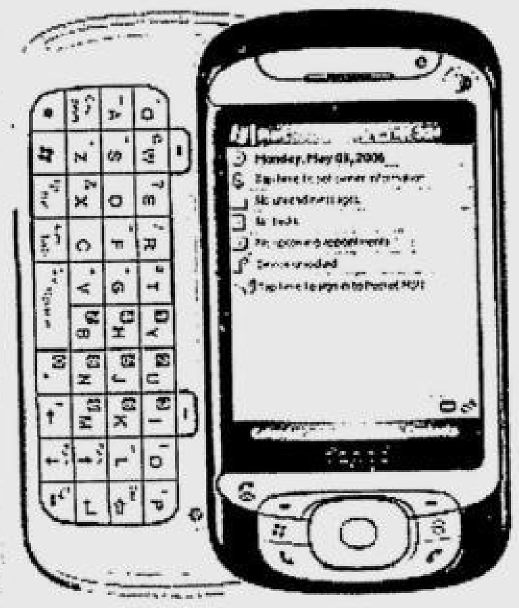
She said handset makers now recognized that the availability of cellphone accessories would help boost sales of their high-end mobile phones and smartphones, as these helped users to fully exploit the features of their wireless devices.

Leading manufacturer Nokia is addressing the handset accessories market by coming out with "mobile enhancement" products. Motorola, on the other hand, is capitalizing on the "personalization" and "self-expression" trends.

By 2012, ABI Research expects revenues from mobile handset accessories to hit more than $80 billion.

"The continuing innovation and further advancements in technology, coupled with the increasing desire of customers to personalize their handsets, bodes well for the future of the market," the study says.

# *Power tool does everything a PC can—plus call*



By Riza T. Olchondra

NEW PHONE USERS, DON'T TRY this at home.

The Dopod 838Pro is a well-equipped, 3G-enabled PC-phone that is competitively priced, considering its "talents" and connectivity options.

### Assets

It is touted as the first Windows Mobile PC-phone that features HSDPA (High-Speed Downlink Packet Access), 3G (UMTS), quadband GSM support, EDGE, infrared, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.

Having Windows Mobile 5.0, means you can access and edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents, browse the Web using Internet Explorer, and play music and video on the mini Windows Media Player.

Navigating the phone is easy with the buttons for basic functions found outside, a scroll wheel on the left side, and a hidden QWERTY keypad that slides out. An added convenience is the "OK" button on the left-hand side that takes you straight back to the home page.

For picture and video taking, the 838Pro has a high-resolution two-megapixel sensor and fast 400MHz Samsung processor. It also has a flash feature for short-distance shots. Added storage can be had with a microSD card.

For 3G video calls, the device uses a 0.3-megapixel camera found up front.

Voice recordings are also a breeze and a joy to play back with the quality speakers.

The 838 Pro's 45mm X 60mm screen is large enough for viewing Web pages and documents without having to squint. When the QWERTY keypad is slid out, the device automatically puts the screen into landscape mode. In dark surroundings, the screen backlight is turned on. The screen is also touch sensitive, so a stylus would be easy to use.

### Liabilities

Being an advanced phone, it is more suited for business users who have changed devices a few times, including units that run on mobile Windows 5.0.

There is a text recognition function, but "chicken scratch" handwriting will not work. Finally, the battery lasts for 200 hours on standby and around four hours of talk time, but this is significantly reduced when the power-hungry Wi-Fi adapter is turned on. So if you want to surf using Wi-Fi, you better have the charger with you.

### Bottom line

All the cool features don't come cheap—the 838 Pro sells for under P50,000.

All things considered, the Dopod 838Pro is a power tool that balances features so that the business user is not left hanging in the middle of a call or use of application. You need a bag to carry it around, but it is worth the investment.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## People, Events & Products

# Folks and kids take the spotlight in TeleTech Family Tour Day 2007

BABIES IN STROLLERS AND YOUNGSTERS frolicking with fast-food mascots are not your ordinary scenes in call centers. One Sunday afternoon, however, transformed TeleTech's employees in Cainta and Novaliches into cheerful and convivial tour guides for their families and friends. They welcomed them into their equally cheery and colorful state-of-the-art workplace along with interactive, fun-filled activities like face-painting, videoke sessions, dancing, eating, drinking and touring Teletech's beautifully designed offices in celebration of Teletech's Family Tour Day 2007.

TeleTech, the country's fastest growing business process outsourcing (BPO) company, recognizes the importance of family to their employees. It is, therefore, no surprise that for the past three years TeleTech has been opening its doors once a year to employees' families and friends.

At the Family Tour Day, TeleTech managers, team leaders and associates mingled with each other during the tour of the center and at the picnic tents set up outside the building. It was one full day of learning, fellowship, and fun.

Nona Familara, training manager at TeleTech Cainta's facility, expressed her elation over the Family Tour Day because it gave her the chance to have her kids and husband see her office station where she spends most of her work hours.

"I'm very glad and grateful that TeleTech holds events like this because it shows that the company really values us and our families," Nona said.

A mother of two, Nona skillfully finds a balance between her personal and professional life. Nona is like the thousands of TeleTech employees who have to give equal time for work and personal pursuits.

Family members saw for themselves the well thought-out design of TeleTech's facility with its recreational areas, quiet rooms, and florid cafeteria. "When we build our facilities, we have our employees' welfare in mind," said Maulik Parekh, vice president and general manager of TeleTech Philippines. "Our care for employees is shown in the homey feel of our meeting areas, relaxing employee lounges, and adequately furnished game rooms."

Eric Ravalo, English language manager, believes that the Family Tour Day worked wonders for both the company and the employees' families.

"This event has created a more harmonious relationship among employees, their families, and the management," he explained. He also believes that family members saw first hand just how wonderful it is to work at TeleTech, spawning greater awareness to everyone that TeleTech is more than just a call center. "They will realize that (TeleTech) is the place to be," Ravalo added.

Lanie Zeta, an operations associate who volunteered to conduct the site tours for families says, "I felt great showing our guests around the site and pointing our unique amenities such as the sleeping rooms and shower rooms!" With over 2,000 employees working at the TeleTech Novaliches center, she ended up doing 10 site tours! "It was tiring but at the same time so fulfilling. I saw the pride in the faces of my parents and siblings while I was doing the site tours. Will I do it again next year? Absolutely!" Lanie beams.

A testament to TeleTech's outstanding employee relations as part of its premier goals and objectives is the award given by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) distinguished board of judges as the "Outstanding Employer of the Year" among 29 BPO companies nationwide. TeleTech strongly prioritizes employee welfare, which contributed to the millions of US dollars that are invested in the country's economy by generating thousands of jobs in the country.

"I believe the Family Tour Day gives all of our employees that sense of pride in their workplace and their job. This is an event we consider as a best practice and as an industry leader we are more than proud to share with the rest of the business process outsourcing industry." Parekh said.

**NTC-M LAUNCHES SIMULATOR TRAINING FACILITIES**

The Norwegian Training Center - Manila (NTC-M) formally inaugurated last April 18, its latest simulator training facilities at its training complex in Taguig City. Considered as one of the most advanced simulators in Asia, the facilities include a new full mission SMS bridge simulator, a dynamic positioning (DP) training facility, an offshore SMS crane simulator, and a liquid cargo handling simulator (LNG/LPG). They were installed in partnership with Ship Manoeuvring Simulator Centre (SMS), a quality provider of simulator-based training headquartered in Trondheim, Norway. NTC-M has been recognized as a leading provider of relevant upgrading training for Filipino seafarers since 1990. The guests were all warmly welcomed by Odd Magne Skei, NTC-M director. At the program preceding the blessing ceremonies, important guests delivered their messages of congratulations and appreciation to NTC-M for its initiatives in leading the way in the continuous development of the country's maritime education and training sector. Led by Secretary Arturo Brion of the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole), other speakers included Norwegian Ambassador Stale Torstein Risa, Taguig City Administrator Wilfredo Villar, Tesda director Augusto Syjuco, Hans Paul Eidissen, chair of SMS, and Erik Gjerdene, director of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association. Shown: Dole Secretary Arturo Brion (pointing) keenly asks NTCM director Odd Magne Skei (center) about the simulator demo, as Norwegian Ambassador Stale Torstein Risa (second from right) stands among the VIP guests during the launching of the new NTCM facilities.

**MARK BAUTISTA , LE FROGE CONTRACT SIGNING**

Mark Bautista endorses Le Froge, the t-shirt brand that bagged the title as the Boys Teens Apparel in last year's Philippine Fashion Awards. Like Mark, Le Froge is seen as active, adventurous, versatile and stylish - perfect for boys in their teens who want to be fashionable and trendy. To showcase what Le Froge has in store for its market, Mark Bautista will be featured in all collaterals of Le Froge this year as well as in the Le Froge billboard along Edsa. As the new Le Froge billboard says, 'Every now and then, a new 'mark' of fashion emerges.' Witness most of them this year with the newest tandem in Philippine fashion. Present during the Le Froge contract signing are from left: Mark Bautista, Le Froge owners Marilyn and Jun Go and Veronique del Rosario-Corpus, general manager of Viva Artists Agency Inc.

# Franchise expo to showcase local, foreign biz opportunities

TWO BIG HALLS OF THE WORLD TRADE Center are primed to turn into a powerhouse of business opportunities when Franchise Expo 2007 is held from July 6 to 8 by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), with the full support of the Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation, and the World Franchise Council.

The expo, according to PFA chair Bing S. Limjoco, is also backed by the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Philippine Retailers Association, all pooling their minds and resources to offer as many opportunities as possible to small and medium enterprises and aspiring entrepreneurs across a wide range of businesses.

"Franchise 2007 will showcase highly successful homegrown, foreign, and international brands, allied and support services, new but tested business concepts, and many other areas for profitable investments within the vast but proven field of franchising," Limjoco explained.

"The expo will also feature a center of emerging businesses for those who want to test the market, an incubation area for young entrepreneurs, and a PFA lounge where visitors can get free professional consultancy on many issues, including the legal aspects of franchising, intellectual property rights, and taxation, among many others.

Likewise, franchise seminars will be held at the World Trade Center during the expo's three-day run.

The expo is designed for new entrepreneurs, budding enterprises, and established SMEs who are looking for lucrative but stable businesses with long-term prospects for growth and expansion whether locally or abroad.

"There will be so many opportunities at the expo that visitors can choose which investment requirement he can afford in his preferred line of business," Limjoco said.

Last year's expo generated almost 25,000 visitors and more than P200 million worth of businesses. For this year, it is expected to post a new record in visitor attendance and volume of business generated.

Other expo details can be obtained from exhibit manager Worldexco (855-8342 to 45; fax 855-8346; or e-mail mktg@worldexco.com), or the PFA Secretariat (687-0365 to 67, or e-mail pfa@nwave.net).

Co-presented by PLDT Business Solutions, Seaoil, and Coca-Cola, Franchise Expo 2007 will provide participants with international and local networking, onsite marketing and sales, extensive promotions, and thousands of prospective clients who have decided to invest in a franchised business.

Franchise 2007 is also sponsored by Max's Restaurant, 7-Eleven, Goldilocks, Francorp., Quali Plus, Julie's Bakeshop, Red Ribbon, Greenwich, Chow King, GoodAh!, Felisa Spa, and Crystal Clear, and supported by Ayala Center, Robinsons Malls and Shangri-La Plaza as mall partners, and by Entrepreneur, RJ 100, Wave 89.1, and Heart 103.5 as media partners.

"As it is, franchising would continue to be an engine of growth today and in the future, whether in the national, regional, or international level," Limjoco stressed.

# Filipiniana on demand

By Riza T. Olchondra

FILIPINIANA USED TO BE SO HARD TO FIND, especially Spanish-era documents in their original text. Not anymore.

The Internet has a new user-friendly site called Filipiniana.net—a research portal on the Philippines that gathers and publishes arcane, unpublished or out-of-print materials in English, Spanish and Filipino languages, as well as in local dialects.

Filipiniana.net is the brainchild of Gaspar Vibal of the textbook giant Vibal Publishing.

## Library, research portal

The site is a free digital library and online research portal that houses a comprehensive collection of Filipino-related documents—from the declaration of independence in original Spanish text to new works about historical figures.

Vibal said the idea for Filipiniana.net germinated around December 2005, after he retired from various publishing stints in New York and was asked by his mother to do something in the Philippines that he was passionate about.

Vibal then had the "mad" idea of giving away books—in digital form.

## Digital era

"I told my mother that I wanted to give away books for free. At first she was shocked, but when I explained the idea of making digitized books available, she liked the idea—that is, that you don't have to go to the library any more, the library goes to you," he said.

Vibal said he was inspired by Project Gutenberg, a site established by American Michael Hart that publishes text that can be accessed for free.

He set out to work and by November 2006, Filipiniana.net was up and unveiled before historians and academicians at the 19th International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) Conference.

From featuring rare books, documents, and images from Vibal's personal Filipiniana collection, the site now houses Filipiniana from sources such as the National Library, Instituto Cervantes and the University of the Philippines Library.

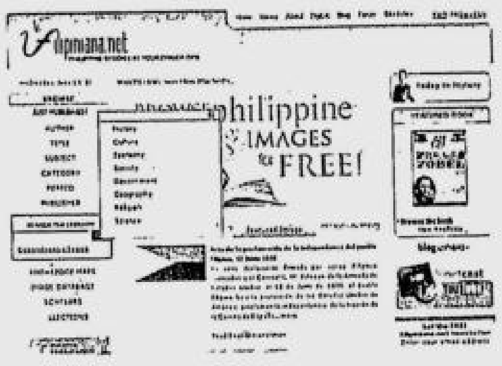
There are plans to put up a Master Philippine Bibliography that will boast of a complete and exhaustive annotation of the rarest Philippine books, the digitizing of Blair and Robertson's 53-volume Philippine Islands, and the uploading of Sandaang Nobelang Pilipino, a selection of the best hundred novels written in Filipino as prepared by literary critic Soledad Reyes.

## Unique, student-friendly

Vibal said the project has received its fair amount of criticism, mostly from librarians who cannot understand how rare text can be made available online from books and documents that Vibal does not physically possess. There are also criticisms from those who wonder how the site can be sustained when it gives away the text for free.

"We're not claiming to be the first to digitize books or give them away for free, we are encouraging researchers and maybe later, the public, to access our site and this could give us the opportunity to monetize our service later on," he said.

Despite the criticism, Vibal said he takes heart from the fact that Filipiniana.net has been listed by online encyclopedia Wikipedia as among its top four Philippine book sources, alongside the University of the Philippines Library, LibraryLink, and Philippine e-Library. Typing "Filipiniana" on Google yields the site as top result.



Vibal credits the site's popularity to the unique and student-friendly additions that the Filipiniana.net team has added.

"Project Gutenberg will simply upload a text file of the book, while Filipiniana.net has links to pages where a certain search term can be found, plus there is a study guide and an executive summary of every book," Vibal said.

The final version of Filipiniana.net is set to be launched at the Manila International Book Fair this August.

# New Samsung phones out

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS RECENTLY launched its Ultra Edition II Series handsets, touted to be among the world's slimmest mobile phones.

The Ultra Edition II range consists of two stylish and functional sliders—the Ultra Edition 10.9 (U600) and the 3.5G Ultra Edition 12.1 (U700); a metallic clamshell—the Ultra Edition 9.6 (U300), and a candy bar handset—the Ultra Edition 5.9 (U100).

Each model offers advanced features such as a 3-megapixel camera and camcorder, high-speed Internet connectivity, as well as extensive multimedia and audio capabilities.

**ULTRA Edition 12.1 (U700) slider phone**

The Ultra Edition II range is slimmer and more powerful than the first edition with its advanced functions and improved designs.

Exclusive to the Ultra Edition II range, Samsung's Optimized Power Usage Solution (Opus) sets these handsets apart from the others by guaranteeing maximum performance with increased talk time by 10 percent, power saving by 30 percent and battery capacity by 10 percent. Samsung's Smart Surface Mounting Technology (SSMT), which was initially developed for the Ultra Edition range, has also been an intrinsic design element for the Ultra Edition II range, reducing the number of required components, interference and noise.

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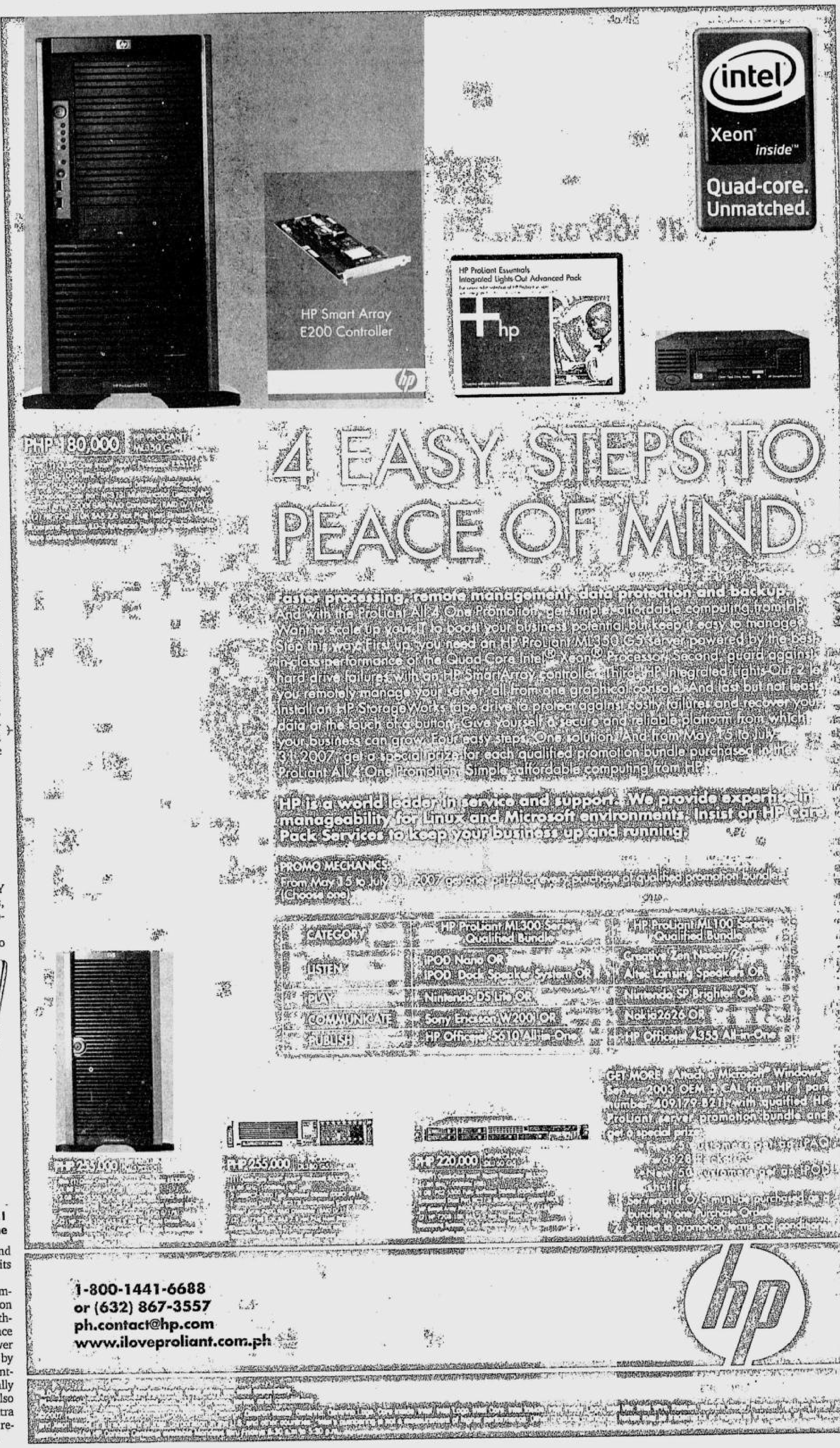
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# *Analysts see opportunities*

NEW YORK—TRIPLE-DIGIT SWINGS IN the Dow Jones industrials the past two weeks might seem like a painful reminder of the volatility that devastated Wall Street in the early part of the decade. But the turbulence might actually reflect more prudence than panic.

Investors were shell-shocked after the technology bubble burst in 2000 and sent stocks plummeting from record levels—often in 100-point-plus chunks as Wall Street reacted to events that also included the 2001 terror attacks, recession and a string of corporate scandals. The road back has been slow, a reflection of the market's more conservative stance.

Now, the sort of declines Wall Street has been seeing lately seem to be growing not just out of worries about interest rates or the economy, but out of investors second-guessing themselves.

The past two weeks, investor sold stocks off when they realized they'd gotten ahead of the Federal Reserve in expecting an interest rate cut this year.

Fed Chair Ben Bernanke helped set off some of the triple-digit selling when he talked of the economy's health—something unlikely to help push the Fed toward a rate drop.

Stocks had surged during the spring on growing expectations that rates would indeed be coming down.

But Charles Blood, senior financial market analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman, said the market's growth in April and May was at an "unsustainable pace."

He argued that stocks needed to cool down a bit, and some of the recent drops were "one way to do it."

By the middle of this past week, investors were taking another look, and, aided by better than expected inflation data, realized they had again overdone it, this time on the downside.

So stocks regained much of their losses from the previous week.

This kind of back-and-forth motion to the market accomplishes two important things, analysts said.

The most important is that it lets some air out of stocks that continue to test new highs, but it also shows investors aren't so exuberant about equities that they aren't afraid of a little consolidation.

Still, it's not to say the market isn't capable of great nervousness—it did, after all, tank on Feb. 27, taking the Dow industrials down 416 points as investors reacted to factors including a steep drop in Chinese stocks and a warning from former Fed chair Alan Greenspan that the US could be headed toward recession.

But investors might also have learned something from that plunge, which now appears more than a little out of proportion because the stock market and the economy are not in the same precarious state they were six and seven years ago.

A series of smaller declines might accomplish the same thing as a precipitous drop—bring the market down to earth—without doing so much psychic damage.

"We're nowhere near the situation we were in during 2000," said Scott Wren, senior equity strategist at AG Edwards & Sons. "You need to take a look at the fundamentals, weigh the uncertainties, and try to draw a conclusion—and most of all take advantage of these pullbacks." *AP*

# Yields, rates dominate world market landscape

LONDON—THE RECENT SURGE IN global bond yields will again dominate financial markets this week as investors look to US housing data and German business and investment sentiment indicators for clues to the outlook for growth and interest rate.

Benchmark 10-year US, euro zone and UK government bond yields hit multi-year highs last week as investors shifted positions dramatically to price in central bank action to quell inflationary pressures against a backdrop of strong global growth.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand stunned markets this week with a quarter-point hike to 8 percent.

In the case of the Federal Reserve, all bets on a rate cut this year have been abandoned.

A Reuters poll last week showed US interest rates holding steady through 2008, versus in May when a quarter point cut was in the cards.

"In the US we'll be looking for mortgage application numbers because people are saying the housing market has been damaged by high bond yields," said Brian Hilliard, director of economic research at SG Securities.

"In housing starts we're looking for a minor softening there, but somewhere above the January trough. But even anything minor in the market is going to be incredibly sensitive."

The rise in US bond yields has lifted the dollar, especially against the low-yielding yen.

Last Friday, the dollar hit at a 4-1/2-year high against the Japanese currency after the Bank of Japan kept rates on hold at 0.5 percent and gave no clear signal it will raise them soon.

Today sees the US National Association of Home Builders index numbers for June. A Reuters poll points to a reading of 30, unchanged from last month and at the bottom of a cycle reached last October.

On Tuesday, US housing starts data will come out. A Reuters poll indicates a 1.48-million annual rate of housing starts, down from April.

"Inventory levels are elevated, homebuilder optimism remains very weak, and housing demand is uncertain despite the rise in new home sales in April," said HSBC in a research note.

Investors will also be watching German business and investor sentiment when the ZEW and IFO indices are released on Tuesday and Friday, respectively.

Reuters polls show a forecast rise last month in the ZEW economic sentiment to 29 in June from 24, but a slight dip in current conditions to 87.5 from 88.

The June IFO data will come out on Friday, and as shown in a Reuters poll stands nearly unchanged from the previous month across all three measures of business climate, current conditions and expectations.

"Encouragingly, German trade data ... suggest that external demand may be recovering from the weak first quarter," Goldman Sachs said in a research note.

Sweden's central bank holds a policy meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday and a 25-basis point rise to 3.5 percent, the highest since March 2003, is seen as certain.

As far as policymakers' commentary goes, the focus will center on a speech from European Central Bank president Jean-Claude Trichet in Montreal on Monday and BOJ governor Toshihiko Fukui in Tokyo on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Bank of England will release the minutes of its most recent policy meeting. While the bank kept rates on hold at 5.5 percent, analysts expect the minutes to point to more interest rate hikes in the months ahead.

"We may see a hawkish vote for a rate increase, but nothing significant over the last meeting," said SG Securities' Hilliard. *Reuters*

# Oil hovers at $68/barrel

NEW YORK—CRUDE OIL FUTURES settled at $68 a barrel last Friday, their highest close since September, while gasoline futures extended their rally, raising the prospect that prices at the pump will stabilize and possibly even rise after falling for several weeks.

Analysts say oil prices were boosted by unrest in the Middle East and a lower-than-expected core inflation figure, which encouraged investors to move money from fixed income investments to commodities. But oil futures also followed the lead of gas futures, said James Cordier, president of Liberty Trading Group, in Tampa, Florida.

Gas futures have risen several days this week after a government report Wednesday that shocked traders by showing gasoline inventories remained flat as refineries used less of their capacity than they had the week before.

The report was bullish for gasoline, but not for oil, which has been "trading in sympathy" with gas, Cordier said. That's because the refinery outages that are crimping gasoline supplies serve as a bottleneck for oil, which backs up behind the facilities waiting to be processed, he explained.

Cordier thinks oil can't sustain a price this high, and should ease this week.

Light, sweet crude rose 35 cents to settle at $68 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for August delivery rose 15 cents to settle at $73.98 a barrel on London's ICE Futures exchange.

Meanwhile, retail gasoline prices, which typically lag the futures market, fell again by 1.4 cents overnight to a national average price of $3.029 a gallon (80 cents a liter), according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices peaked at $3.227 a gallon (85 cents a liter) on May 24.

"Unfortunately, I think this is about as good as it gets," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, predicting a higher price in the near future.

Gasoline futures for July jumped 3.54 cents to settle at $2.2601 a gallon on the Nymex.

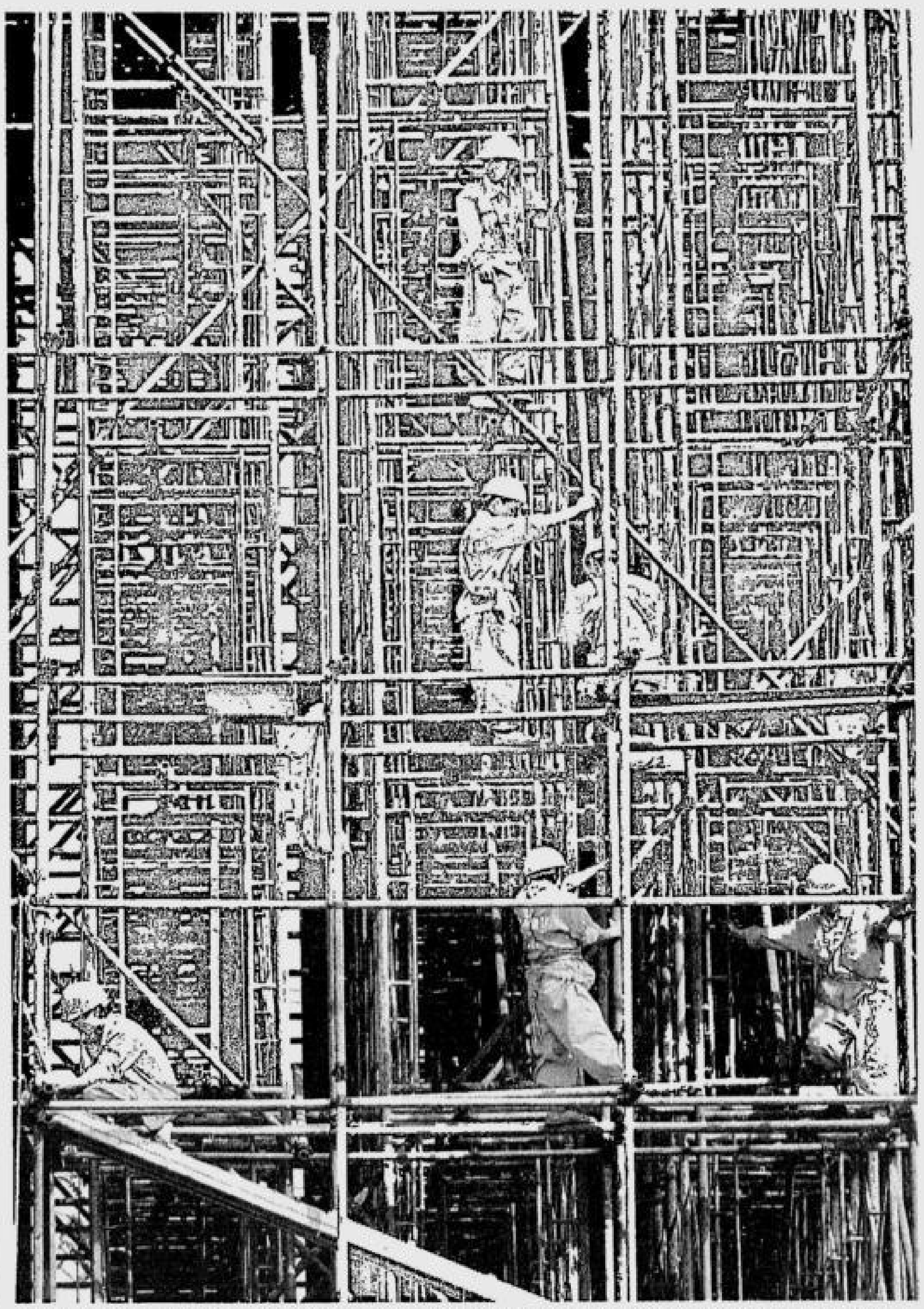
Analysts said traders continued to react to Wednesday's report by the energy department's Energy Information Administration showing that refinery utilization, which had been expected to grow by 0.8 percent, fell 0.4 percent to 89.2 percent, the second straight weekly decline, in the week ended June 8.

Most analysts say refineries should be using 94 percent to 95 percent of their capacity at this time of year.

The report killed any sentiment that the domestic refining industry, beset by an unusual number of outages this spring, has recovered.

Analysts have warned for months that the industry is not producing enough gasoline to meet summer driving demand, which typically peaks between the July 4 and Labor Day holidays.

On Friday there were new reports that Corpus Christi, Texas, refineries owned by Valero Energy Corp. and Flint Hills Resources were temporarily shutting down equipment for maintenance. *AP*



**CONSTRUCTION** workers climb on the scaffolding of a building site in Hefei, in China's Anhui province. China's urban fixed asset investment picked up 25.9 percent as of May, official data showed amid expectations the government will act soon to slow its juggernaut economy. AFP

# Amazon value tops Google's

LOS ANGELES—TWO MONTHS AFTER Amazon.com Inc. posted first-quarter results that gave a boost to bulls anxious for a sign of improved earnings and profit margins, the online retailer's valuation is soaring—and perplexing many.

Trading at 53 times expected 2008 earnings, Amazon's valuation is more double that of Google Inc. and eBay, and nearly twice that of Apple Inc.

Amazon's rich valuation, which has historically ranged higher than most tech companies and well above brick-and-mortar rivals like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., is due to a confluence of factors involving a limited concentration of holdings, a period of intense investment, and an indefatigable faith in the company's future among some core investors, Wall Street says.

The company posted net earnings in late April that nearly doubled, helped in large part by a lower tax rate, and raised its 2007 sales and operating income estimates.

But the share price, up 58 percent since earnings were announced, has grown faster than earnings expectations, boosted Amazon's price-to-earnings ratio to a dizzying level.

A unique psychology is at work when it comes to Amazon, argues Global Crown Capital's Martin Pyykkonen, who describes some of the company's bulls as having gone "off their rocker."

Amazon has just begun to decelerate spending on technology and content that has depressed earnings over the past few years in an investment spree that frustrated many on Wall Street.

Another issue with Amazon's valuation may be that many shareholders have substantial stakes, limiting the number of shares that are freely available to be bought and sold.

Chief executive Jeffrey Bezos has nearly 25 percent of Amazon's shares.

So the free float that is left is relatively small, and even slight shifts in the company's fundamentals can spark a disproportionate move." *Reuters*

# New World Bank chief faces tough task of restoring trust

WASHINGTON—ROBERT ZOELLICK, the presumed next head of the World Bank, will shoulder the task of rebuilding trust in the development lender after a scandal at the top exposed deep divisions.

US President George W. Bush nominated Zoellick to succeed World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz, who was forced to resign over a favoritism scandal involving his companion, a bank employee.

Zoellick, a former US trade chief and deputy secretary of state and a vice chairman at Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs, was the sole candidate declared by Friday's deadline.

By tradition, the United States chooses the bank chief and European countries select the head of the sister institution, the International Monetary Fund.

Meanwhile, Zoellick is on a globe-trotting "listening" tour, meeting with political and social leaders to discuss the way forward for the 185-nation bank whose mission is to fight poverty in developing countries.

"There is no doubt that the institution has been through a period of turmoil and I think that one of the tasks of a new president will be to try to calm the waters," Zoellick said Wednesday after talks in Berlin with Germany's development minister, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul.

Wieczorek-Zeul was one of the most vocal European critics of Wolfowitz, a former US deputy defense secretary and an architect of the Iraq war.

Zoellick, who as US trade representative helped launch the World Trade Organization's Doha Round of trade talks in 2001, has built a reputation as an extremely bright but tough consensus-builder.

While on his swing through Europe, Zoellick said the stalled WTO Doha round could be restarted.

A breakthrough would be "extraordinarily important for the world economy, for development, for growth, for creating opportunities that the round succeeds."

If confirmed as the 11th president of the World Bank, Zoellick must confront a divided staff and low morale at the Washington-based institution, with some loudly opposing his nomination.

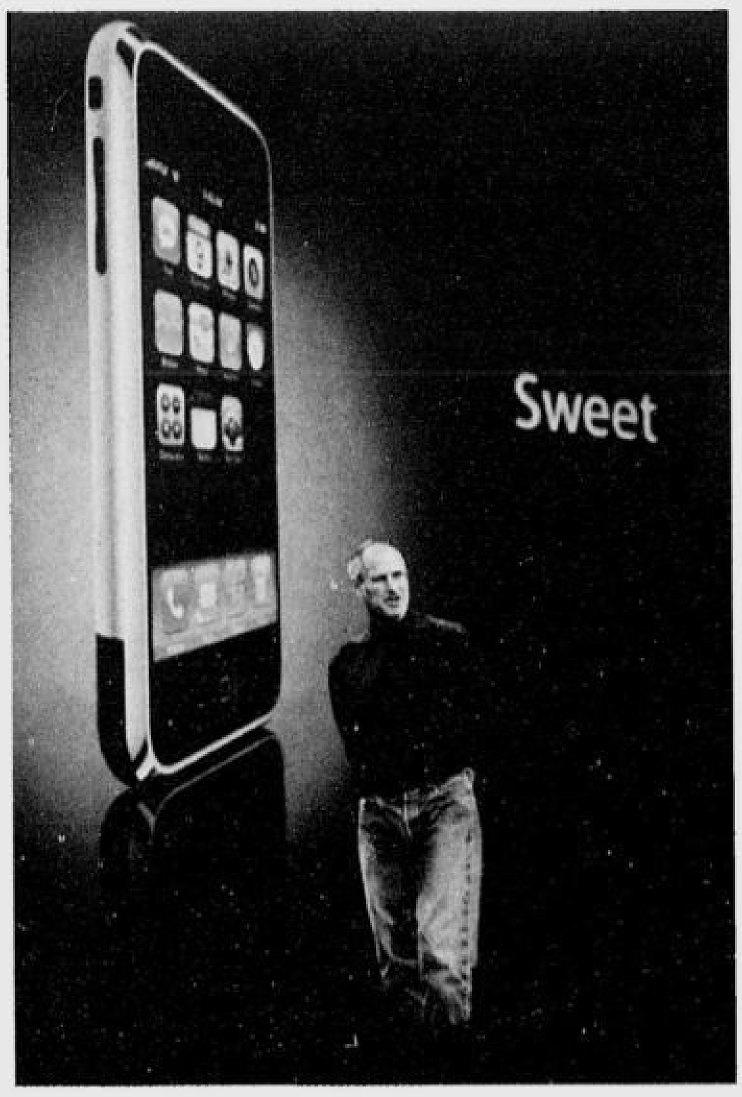
Wolfowitz was forced to announce his resignation in mid-May after the bank found he had broken rules in arranging lavish pay raises and promotions for his companion, a bank employee.

The bank's employee association pushed hard for his resignation.

The scandal reignited debate over the US grip on the presidential nomination, with critics, including non-governmental organizations and political leaders in developing countries and elsewhere, calling for a transparent, merit-based selection.

It also highlighted questions about the relevance of the six-decade-old World Bank's role in a world that now relies increasingly on private and regional financing in poor economies.

Inside the World Bank, speculation is heated over which of Wolfowitz's inner circle will stay on when he leaves, according to The Washington Post, which uncovered the favoritism scandal. Of his team of five, four remain. *AFP*



**APPLE CEO** Steve Jobs talks about the iPhone at the Apple World Wide Developers Conference in San Francisco. AP

AUCTION

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FOOD PROCESSING & GENERAL FACTORY EQUIPMENT

Closing: Tuesday, 26 June 2007 - 18:00 CCT (Local Time)
Location of the Assets: Manila, Philippines

FOOD PROCESSING - PFAUDLER Vacuum Cooker; (2) PERMASAN Mixing Vessels; (2) Cooking Kettles; Blender; Syrup Tank; GLATT OKAWARA Spray Granulator, etc.
PLANT SERVICES - BLITZ/QUINCY/BROOMWADE Air Compressors; STAHL Refrigeration System; BROOMWADE Air Dryers; CLEAVER BROOKS Packaged Boiler; BROOMWADE Thermal Dryer; VILTER Chiller Systems; SAE/BLITZ Air Blowers, Water Conditioning Plant, etc.
LABORATORY - LABCONCO Fume Hood; MEMMERT Oven; CMC LAB LINE Chamber; REXALL Autoclave; LAMINAR Flow Hood, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - Pumps; Extraction Hoods; Pipework; Stainless Steel Platforms; Exhaust Fans; Mezzanine Floor; Stainless Steel Tanks; Hoppers; Dust Collector; A-Frame; Stainless Steel Platforms; Vacuum Pumps; Heat Exchanger; Steam Tank; Water Storage Tank; Washing Station; Office Furniture, etc.

PASTA, PEANUT BUTTER & FLOUR PROCESSING LINES

Closing: Thursday, 26 July 2007 - 18:00 CCT (Local Time)
Location of the Assets: Manila, Philippines

LONG AND SHORT PASTA PROCESSING - PAVAN Long Cut Line (1990); BUHLER Long Cut Line (1985); PAVAN Short Cut Line (1986); BUHLER Short Cut Line (1986); RICCIARELLI 22 Short Cut, RICCIARELLI 38 Long Cut Packing Machines; (22) Pasta Hoppers; LANDUCCI Pasta Die Washing Machine; Pasta Die Rack; Flour Re-drying System
PEANUT BUTTER PROCESSING - SIMAR Fat Melter (1999); BAUER Roaster; Blancher; Sorting Table; Peanut Mill; Bucket Elevators; Feeders; Degassing Tank; (2) Votators; CHERRY BORRELL Piston Filler; Stainless Steel Platform; Processing Pump; Wide Bottle Sealer; Shrink Tunnel
FLOUR PROCESSING - (5) 38T Cap. Flour Storage Silos; Flour Storage Support Frames; KEK GARDNER Pasta Grinder; (2) Sucker Pumps

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Victoria, Alicia, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 6627103/6627983/6627810
Fax. No. (078) 6627103/6627917

The Isabela – 1 Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ISELCO – 1) wishes to invite interested suppliers for Public Bidding for the supply and delivery of the following:

a) Electronic KWHM, 10 (30) AMP, single phase
b) Steel Pole, 30 footer; 3.0mm plate thickness
c) XLPE insulated, MV power cable, copper taped shield, PVC jacket, 100 mm2, 15kv
d) Terminal lug, single hole, long barrel, 4/0
e) Termination kit, outdoor, cold shrink, 15 kv

Interested parties may secure bid documents and checklist of qualification requirements at the office of the PBAC Secretary at Institutional Services Manager's office and look for Ms. Luzviminda D. Torres or call cel no. 09189429720 or call Engr. Romeo M. Villacampa at Cel No. 09189226973.

Schedule of bidding activities shall be as follows:

| PARTICULARS | DATE/TIME |
|---|---|
| Issuance of bid documents/checklist of qualification requirements. | June 19 - July 03, 2007<br>8:00 AM - 5:00 PM |
| Pre-Qualification conference | July 04, 2007 / 9:00 AM |
| Submission/Opening of Bids | July 04, 2007 / 1:00 PM |

Checklist of Qualification Requirements are the following: (To be submitted during the pre-qualification conference)

1. Non-refundable filing fee in the amount of two thousand pesos only (PhP2,000.00) in the form of cash.
2. Complete set of legal documents of the company, SEC Registration, Articles of Incorporation and by laws, company profile, business registration and license papers.
3. Audited Financial Statement (Balance sheet and Income Statement) duly filed/stamped received by BIR.
4. If represented by an agent of the firm, it must have a letter of Authorization from the President/Manager or Owner.
5. Posting/depositing the required BID BOND.

The ISELCO - 1 reserves the right to reject any or all bids for valid and justified reason, waive any defect thereon and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the cooperative (ISELCO - 1). The ISELCO - 1 likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) Engr. ROMEO M. VILLACAMPA
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) Engr. VIRGILIO L. MONTANO
General Manager

(PDI – June 17, 18 & 19, 2007)

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**PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282 / 5281

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

| | Approved Budget |
|---|---|
| *Three (3) units Pneumatic Control Valves, One (1) unit Valve Positioner And One (1) unit Position Transmitter under FGJ 70633* | *PHP 4,000,000.00* |
| *Various Sizes of Through Conduit Valves under FGO 70210* | *PHP 8,950,000.00* |
| *Various Sizes of SS Ball Valves under FGJ 70656* | *PHP 1,584,000.00* |
| *under FGJ 70657* | *PHP 1,079,000.00* |

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the above address based on the following schedules:

| PR NO. | Date of Issue | Cost per Document | Contact Person |
|---|---|---|---|
| FGJ 70633 | June 19, 2007 | PHP 1,500.00 | Ms. Maricar A. Garduce loc. 5281 |
| FGO 70210 | June 19, 2007 | PHP 2,000.00 | Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado loc. 5282 |
| FGJ 70656/57 | June 19, 2007 | PHP 1,000.00 | Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado loc. 5282 |

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall also be held on June 27, 2007 for all the requisitions, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time) of July 18, 2007 for FGJ 70633 and July 11, 2007 for FGO 70210 and FGJ 70656/57. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(PDI--June 18, 2007)

*Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee*

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HEADQUARTERS
ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, PHILIPPINE ARMY
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
Fort Andres Bonifacio, Metro Manila

DISCOM

12 June 2007

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The **ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND DISPOSAL COMMITTEE** invites interested parties and/or Junk Shop Owners to apply for Auction for two (2) lots consisting of ten (10) unserviceable vehicles and assorted scrap items stockpiled at Hqs 51st Engr Bde, PA, Camp Atienza, Libis, Quezon City.

A Pre-Auction conference will be at 2:00 PM on 28 June 2007 at Army Support Command (ASCOM) Conference Room. Auction Proper will also be on 05 July 2007 at 2:00 PA Army Support Command, (ASCOM), Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

The Army Support Command, PA reserves **THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE HIGHEST BID AND ONE THAT IS MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PHILIPPINE ARMY.**

**FOR PARTICULARS PLS CONTACT THE SECRETARIAT, DISPOSAL COMMITTEE, ASCOM, PA AT TEL # 845-9555 LOCAL 4445.**

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO L VERGARA**
Lt. Colonel (OS) PA
Chairman

(PDI--June 18, 2007)

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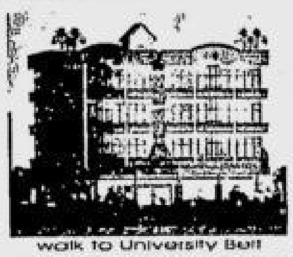

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# Cilostazol and aspirin combination for restenosis prevention

FOR PATIENTS WHO HAVE SIGnificantly blocked arteries, especially for those having chest pains, angioplasty and stenting of the heart arteries could be a lifesaving intervention. Coronary angioplasty is done to open up blocked arteries to improve blood flow through it and the stent is like a thin meshwire which serves as a scaffolding to minimize the risk of the artery from becoming occluded again, a complication called restenosis.

Coronary angioplasty with stenting is a widely used procedure around the world, but there are associated limitations, specifically restenosis. It usually occurs within six months after the initial procedure. In some cases, restenosis could lead to a heart attack and could be fatal.

Studies show that the use of antiplatelet cilostazol combined with aspirin can prevent restenosis in patients who had coronary stent implantation.

One study was done to compare the efficacy of cilostazol combined with aspirin versus ticlopidine and aspirin, which was considered for sometime as a standard regimen after coronary stenting. Patients who were scheduled for coronary stenting were randomly assigned to take oral aspirin plus ticlopidine therapy (group 1) or aspirin plus cilostazol therapy (group 2). After the study, restonis rate for group 2 was at 13 percent while group 1 had 31 percent. Results of the study were published in the *American Heart Journal*.

The aspirin-cilostazol combination has not only been shown effective in preventing coronary restenosis after stenting, but also in preventing occlusion of arteries in the brain. The Trial of Cilostazol in Sympathetic Intracranial Stenosis (TOSS) was another study which showed the efficacy of the aspirin-cilostazol combination. This study was performed to investigate the effect of cilostazol on the progression of intracranial stenosis (ICS). Patients were either given cilostazol 200 mg plus 100 mg aspirin (cilostazol group) per day or placebo plus 100 mg aspirin (placebo group) for 6 months.

The degree of ICS changed in 37 of 97 patients (38.1 percent). ICS progression was detected in 3 of 45 patients in the cilostazol group (6.7 percent) and in 15 of 52 in the placebo group (28.8 percent), whereas the regression was shown in 11 in the cilostazol group (24.4 percent) and in 8 patients in the placebo group (15.4 percent).

Since antiplatelet drugs such as cilostazol is associated with hemorrhage, the combination of this drug with aspirin was thought to increase the risk of bleeding. However, there were minor bleeding complications seen with the use of the combination at the TOSS study. Thus, cilostazol combined with aspirin is considered as a safe and well-tolerated treatment regimen.

Antiplatelet treatment with aspirin and ticlopidine can reduce the incidence rate of stent thrombosis (blood clot) and restenosis so the combination is used a standard regimen after coronary stenting. However, ticlopidine may cause serious adverse effects such as blood problems and liver dysfunction. This prompted the search for safer antiplatelet agents. With the efficacy and safety of cilostazol and aspirin as shown in the two trials, physicians can now reduce the incidence of restenosis among their patients minus the dreaded serious side effects.

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# Pioglitazone improves atherosclerosis in diabetics

RESULTS FROM THE CLINICAL trial Chicago (Carotid intima-media thickness in Atherosclerosis using pioglitazone) showed that pioglitazone halted the progression of atherosclerosis in patients with type 2 diabetes. This is due to the drug's ability to slow down the progression of carotid intima-media thickness (CIMT), defined as the thickening of the inner lining of a patient's neck arteries.

CIMT is a well-established measure for assessing the cardiovascular risk and the extent of atherosclerosis (narrowing of arteries). It has proved to be an independent risk factor for heart attack and stroke, cardiac events which are particularly high in type 2 diabetes mellitus patients. Several studies show that the risk of acute heart attack increases by 11 percent for each 1 mm increase in CIMT.

The Chicago trial, sponsored by Takeda Global Research & Development Inc, was an 18-month, randomized study that enrolled 462 patients with type 2 diabetes. The primary goal was to compare the effects of pioglitazone versus glimepiride, another anti-diabetes drug, on CIMT. The trial also assessed the occurrence of cardiovascular events such as heart attack, stroke and death.

The analysis demonstrated a statistically significant relative reduction in the progression of CIMT with pioglitazone. Results showed that patients taking pioglitazone had a -0.001mm change in artery thickness versus an increase of 0.012mm in those taking glimepiride. There were also no cardiac events (non-fatal heart attack, non-fatal stroke and death) recorded among the pioglitazone group.

Cholesterol levels also improved among patients taking pioglitazone. The drug decreased triglyceride levels by 13.5 percent while high-density lipoprotein levels (HDL) increased by 12.8 percent. This is in contrast with the glimepiride group which had an increase in triglyceride by 2.1 percent and a decrease in HDL levels by 1.1 percent. Both treatment arms increased low density lipoprotein (LDL) levels.

According to Dr. Theodore Mazzone, head of the clinical investigators, results of the Chicago Study is another interesting piece of the puzzle, adding to the understanding of how pioglitazone may confer benefits beyond glycemic control to type 2 diabetes patients.

Pioglitazone belongs to the thiazolidinediones, a class of drug which can positively modify blood pressure, glycemia (sugar) and lipid levels. Patients are reminded that pioglitazone is a prescription medicine and should only be taken upon a doctor's advice.

# OBITUARIES

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*announce the peaceful death of*

## SISTER M. FE JAVIER, OSB

*at St. Benedict's Home, Marikina*
*on June 16, 2007.*

Her remains lie in state at St. Scholastica's Chapel, Manila. Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque today, June 18, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

**"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..."**
**Ecclesiastes 3:11**

---

## Felicitas De Guzman Dee

"Mama Chit"

*Left us on June 17, 2007 to be with Jesus Christ*
*at the age of 89.*

Her children:

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WILKIE
WILBUR
WILFRED
JAMES
FRANCIS

STEPHANIE
BELLA
LILLIAN
ELIZABETH
THELMA
SANDRA

in-laws, grandchildren, great grandchildren are grateful to Jesus for saving His son.

Her remains lie at Paket Santiago Memorial Homes, 9 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, June 20, 2007, 1:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Pre-cremation service will be at 11:00 a.m.

**Psalm 73:25-26**
*Whom have I in heaven but Thee; and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.*

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# BUSINESS *Monday*

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*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# Koreans 'invade' the Philippines

## Not all good news accompany their increasing number

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

KOREANS ARE THE NUMBER ONE TOURISTS in the Philippines today.

Government figures show from 378,602 Korean tourists in 2003, the number went up to 572,133 in 2006, a 51-percent rise.

Together with the increase in tourists has been an influx of Korean residents. The Bureau of Immigration could not furnish the INQUIRER with figures on how many Koreans were granted alien certificates of registration in the country.

But one only has to look around to see the rising Korean population in the country. Over the past few years, establishments like English schools for Koreans, Korean restaurants, Korean groceries, Korean dress shops and even Korean churches have sprouted all over the Philippines.

Many schools in the country already have a Ko-

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JOAN BONDOC

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# Big Sky ATM

## PLDT SWUP enables UCPB's Mobile ATM Providing Customer Service and Satisfaction on Wheels

The aftermath of super typhoon Reming, left wide swaths of Legaspi City in ruins, creating a bleak situation of crisis proportion. One of the strongest to hit the Philippines in recent memory, the typhoon knocked down the city's power and communication lines, reducing banking services to a crawl. And as the badly battered residents tried to get back on their feet, they found out that they could not easily access their cash to buy food, medicines and construction materials.

UCPB's ATM Mobile made its most significant deployment during those 10 fateful days from December 6 to 15, 2006 in Legaspi City. It delivered critical banking services not only to UCPB's clients but also to other banks' clients, processing an average of 400 transactions a day. .

To the residents, who were working against time to restore normalcy to their lives, this wireless wonder on wheels, with its side panel drawn up to reveal an online UCPB ATM machine inside, was a more welcome sight than ironic clear blue skies that signaled the end of the typhoon.

"In our effort to bring banking services closer to where they are needed the most, the UCPB ATM Mobile became more than just a marketing tool or a showcase of our innovation --- it delivered a crucial public service," says Edgardo R. Diama, UCPB Senior Vice President and Head of the Information Technology Division.

### SWUP Drives the UCPB ATM Mobile

The UCPB ATM Mobile uses the PLDT SWUP (Shops.Work UnPlugged) business solution linking it directly and wirelessly through the robust PLDT network to the bank's head office in Makati City. It provides instant banking services as reliably and as accurately as any fixed-site ATM without having to rely on conventional phone lines.

The UCPB ATM Mobile is one-of-a-kind. As far as Mr. Diama knows, no other bank deploys a similar wheeled ATM service operating on wireless technology. And it has many other practical uses for the bank as well.

"We employ it for market research," says Hector Manawis, Assistant Vice President and Head Branch Support & Services Division. "We deploy our ATM Mobile to a certain location, close to where client traffic is high, to test the viability of eventually setting up a fixed ATM there."

Before PLDT SWUP, setting up a mobile ATM wasn't as easy. It took a lot of man hours to prepare for a deployment, according to Mr. Manawis. "But now with PLDT SWUP we can send our mobile ATM readily anytime and anywhere as long as there is a signal."

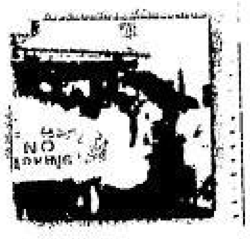
The UCPB ATM Mobile, which normally makes the rounds of special events in remote locations such as "tiangges" and trade fairs, is clearly the most innovative example of UCPB's mission to deliver banking services to where customers need it most, and right away. As Mssrs. Diama and Manawis point out, "SWUP supports UCPB's passion for customer satisfaction. It's definitely worth the investment."

"The sight of this green-and-blue van soon became familiar - and much appreciated - to the typhoon-ravaged citizens of Legaspi"

[illegible] became [illegible]

UCPB SVP and Head of Information Technology Division, Edgardo Diama, talks about the many benefits of the SWUP-enabled UCPB ATM Mobile.

PLDT Senior Relationship Manager, Grace Lacsamana-Ching discusses additional deployment of SWUP-enabled Mobile ATMs with UCPB AVP and Head of Branch Support and Services Division, Hector Manawis.



"Lines forming at the mobile ATM were dramatic testament to the residents' need for immediate banking services amidst typhoon-recovery. UCPB needed to respond quickly, and it did."

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# Korean businesses are bullish in Davao

## Investing millions in real estate, tourism projects

**By Germelina A. Lacorte**
*Inquirer Mindanao*

DAVAO CITY—TWO FACES OF KOREA seem to emerge in Davao these days—the face of the Korean small business in the streets and those of Korean big investors bullish about the Davao prospects. The two faces never meet.

Just across Victoria Plaza mall in Bajada, the small Kimchi restaurant opens to serve droves of Korean students who come here each year for cheap English education. Kimchi is just one of several small Korean firms sprouting around the city in recent years to cater to the demands of a growing number of Koreans, some of whom have come and settled in Davao for good.

But just a block away on the 17th floor of LandCo building, Young Il Han, the chief executive officer of the all-Korean development firm Good Morning Davao, has set his eyes on much bigger prospects in this city. He represents another face of Korea not easily visible down the street. The Korean firm, which opened last year, is putting in P410 million for its property development projects in Buhangin and the island garden city of Samal this year alone. Justin Choi, chief operating officer, says the company is putting up a 120-unit residential hotel estimated to cost P355 million in a 7,200 square meter lot in Buhangin area.

The high-end facility will be equipped with an English language school for foreigners, including Koreans, a business center and a gymnasium.

Alongside this project is the 12.9-hectare resort and residential farm subdivision estimated to cost P60 million in nearby island garden city of Samal. Both projects, which will begin construction in July, target the high-end Korean, Japanese and Australian tourists and retirees coming to Davao.

Choi says that both projects will hire a total of 500 construction workers during the construction phase and 250 hotel management workers once the two projects are completed.

### Big potential

Both projects only cover the first phase of the Korean firm's development interest in Davao, he says. The Korean company is currently negotiating with Filipino partners for the development of a 760-hectare area near Davao city, where they plan to put up a P9 billion resort with a 27-hole golf course and a subdivision.

The project, which will cover the third phase of the Korean firm's development project in Davao, will include an industrial park, where they're going to invite electronic and computer companies from Japan and South Korea to put up projects geared for exports.

Choi says that the Korean company has chosen Davao from among other areas in the Philippines because of the big potential for property development that remains untapped here.

"There is still much of the raw land area just waiting to be developed," says Choi, his face beaming as he surveys with confidence the Davao landscape visible through the glass windows of the Landco Building.

"We're developers, we want new land, that's why, we choose Davao city," says Choi, who has experience in land development and investments in Japan, Korea and America. Their Korean-firm Kangwon Land Development Company has successful projects in Jeju island in South Korea and Kangwondo in eastern Korea.

Before the Davao project, the Korean development firm has partnered with Filipino investors in putting up the Good Morning Land Corp., with the property development projects in Batangas, Nasugbu and Rizal in the last five years.

But in 2005, the Koreans started looking for possible development sites. "We've gone to Baguio, Cebu and Boracay but decided that Davao City is best for development," says Choi. "There is still much untapped potential in Davao," he says. "The city is the second biggest in Asia, it belongs to Mindanao which has good resources and good weather (no hurricanes here), its international airport was constructed by a Korean company, it has a lot of good factors to attract foreign retirees, low prices with high potential for economic growth and plenty of chances to develop a very big project." "Good morning," he says, represents "hope" and "a good start."

Lou Pasawa, city director of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), says he expects the Korean project to have multiplier effect in the Davao economy. Pasawa says the construction industry has 60 ancillary industries that will benefit from its activities, among them are the small construction supplies industries, spare parts, eateries, and other downstream industries.

### Coco peat for export

Aside from Good Morning Davao, another Korean company is about to invest in coco peat production here for exports, according to Pasawa. Michael Kang of the Korean-based H&B Corp. plans to put up a new corporation for export production of coco peats—a fine dust from coconut husks—currently enjoying brisk demand in Korea. The Korean company wanted to put up three processing plants in Davao and surrounding areas, with combined capacity of 100 metric tons per month, says Pasawa.

"They were here scouting for raw materials and when they saw the raw materials readily available, they are ready to form a new company," he says. The Korean company is still preparing the necessary documents for registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

These big Korean investors, however, have nothing in common with small Korean firms also seen sprouting around Davao, says Choi. Lee Jinwoo, 29, a researcher in Davao for a Korean travel website nomad21.com, says Koreans are coming to the Philippines because everything in the country is very cheap. Even the price for learning English in the Philippines is only half or even a quarter of the price anywhere else in the world, he says. The Philippines is the fourth destination for Koreans to learn English after Great Britain, Canada and Australia.

As Korea increases its job quota for Filipinos to 12,000 this year, even learning centers offering Korean language courses to Korean-bound overseas Filipino workers are also popping up.

Whether we like it or not, the Koreans are coming, says Sonia Garcia, regional director of the Department of Tourism (DOT), who noted the trend among Korean visitors in the last six years. In 2006 alone, a total of 2,647 Korean tourists visited Davao, an increase from 2,622 who visited here in the previous year.

Based on the DOT estimates of $90 average daily spending for each tourist, the number of Korean visitors last year could have spent some $714,690 (or P33.59 million) for an average three-day stay here.

At the Kimchi Restauant along Bajada, it's half past eleven but only a few Korean customers come trickling in for lunch. Curiously, the Korean restaurant looks deserted. It's still the middle of May when most of the Korean customers are on vacation, a cheerful Filipina waitress points out.

"At the opening of classes, they'll be back and the restaurant will be full again," she says.

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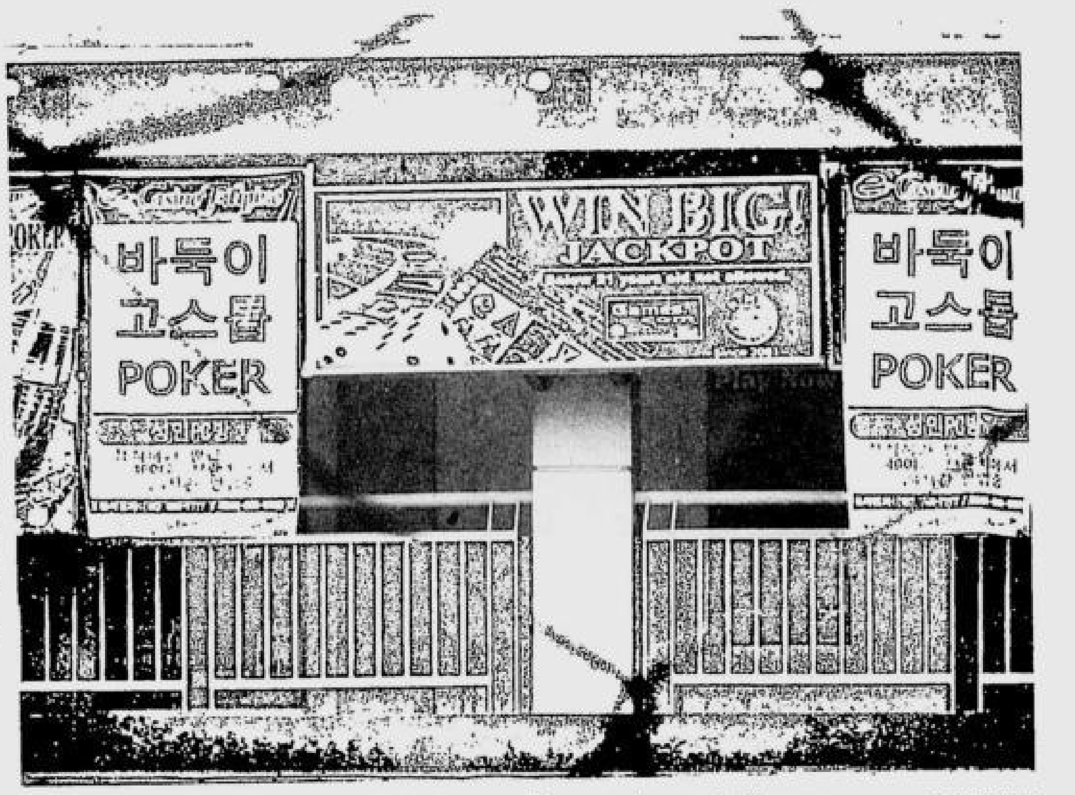
PL AS ACIFIC (PHILS.), INC

**PHARMALINK ISO-CERTIFICATION.** Pharmalink, also known as PL Asia Pacific (Phils.) Inc., was awarded its ISO 9001:2000 certification for quality management system. Pharmalink is the first and youngest company in the country to be ISO-certified for pharmaceutical sales and marketing. Pharmalink president Tito Tolentino (left foreground) receives the ISO certificate from Roger Villanueva of SGS as members of the management committee look on.

### MegaLink first full-time CEO

MEGALINK INC. ANNOUNCED THE APpointment of banker Benjamin P. Castillo as its first full-time president and CEO. After 17 years of operation, the MegaLink Board decided that MegaLink has outgrown its initial mandate to be simply a shared ATM switch network. It appointed a permanent head who will ensure the continued progress of MegaLink.

Castillo brings over 30 years of banking experience to the job. The former Citibank VP and PT Lippo Bank SVP was founding president of the Export and Industry Bank, and simultaneously served as board member and chair of the Operations Committee of the Banking Association of the Philippines. He was chair of the board of directors of the Philippine Clearing House, board member of the Philippine Securities Settlement Corp. and Cash Management Center of the Philippines Inc.



**CASINO** at Barangay San Antonio in Quezon City puts signages in Korean
JOAN BONDOC

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BY EMILIO MACASAET III
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## Koreans 'invade' the Philippines

From page B2-1

rean student population.

BusinessMonday asked its correspondents all over the country to gauge the impact of these foreigners in the local economies.

The stories, in the next few pages are interesting. But not all news that accompany the coming of Koreans are good. A broker cites that many house owners in Manila are wary about renting their abodes to Koreans.

"What happens is a Korean leases the house then sublets this to four or five other families. Sometimes the Koreans destroy the property," he says.

He adds that a plush subdivision in the south has already disallowed leasing out homes to Koreans.

A country club in the north has limited the number of Koreans who can go in at any given time.

In Baguio, some developers complain that Korean builders get licenses approved too quickly; in Cebu tour operators say Korean tourists are coming in droves but only Korean business are benefiting.

The reasons why there is an increasing number of Koreans in the country are varied. These include wanting to learn to speak English and doing it in the Philippines is cheaper; studying college here (as tertiary education is cheaper); a lower cost of living (in some cases only the mother and children are here, the father stays in Korea to work).

Whatever the reason, correspondents sought to give both the positive and negative impact of the rising presence of Koreans in different parts of the country.

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# Who's afraid of Korean businesses in Baguio?

## Records show only 10 have working visas but …

By Vincent Cabreza
and Gobleth Moulic
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

김치
Kim-chi
Rice-cake

VINCENT CABREZA/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

**BAGUIO residents have become customers of many Korean businesses here.**

BAGUIO CITY—WHO'S AFRAID OF Koreans?

If you ask businessmen or the local civic groups in the summer capital, their response will always be a resounding "Not us."

But since March this year, the city government has been receiving complaints of some illegal business transactions and practices involving Koreans that have worried officials.

The Bureau of Immigration places the average number of Korean tourists who visit the city at between 3,000 and 4,000 each week during the peak travel season.

The city's grade schools and universities have at least 2,000 Koreans, said Antonio Prieto, Baguio immigration officer.

Prieto said their records showed only 10 Koreans with valid working visas and who may have set up businesses here.

Koreans dominate the 67,000 foreigners who have made Baguio their second home, or as their frequent halfway destination, BI records showed.

Students alone spend P10,000 monthly on lodging and food so they can complete a degree or three-month crash courses in conversational English, according to Kyeong Geun Sin, a language student.

The Department of Tourism describes this increased foreign traffic to Baguio as an economic boon because many Koreans prefer its cold climate. This city is second to Metro Manila as the preferred destination of Koreans in the country.

But some residents are unhappy.

A few neighborhoods have alerted the police about "Koreans who party all night in their apartment buildings, and who disturb [their] sleep."

Letters sent to the city government questioned the legality of business transactions allegedly made by people fronting for Korean investors.

Residents of a village here filed a formal protest against a building project inside an exclusive neighborhood, which they claimed was owned by a Korean businessman.

The village's counsel said the Korean's involvement violated constitutional restrictions that allowed foreigners to own only 40 percent of any enterprise or property in the country.

The National Labor Relations Commission and the National Conciliation and Mediation Board are addressing several complaints from Filipino language instructors, who were allegedly underpaid by a language school catering to Korean students.

Some teachers claimed that they were paid less than P150 for a day's session.

The Korean presence in the city also became a topic for five mayoral candidates who faced a televised election debate last month.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. says the bad business image as well as illegal real estate transactions involving Koreans are real, "but these transactions have been corrected and the issues they spawned are not enough [for us] to feel threatened."

Even the local Chinese-Filipino community has cautioned critics from denouncing Korean presence in Baguio.

Historically, the local Chinese community points out, the Baguio economy grew because of foreign capital.

Chinese migrants who helped build Kennon Road in the early 1900s set up small trading shops here, which are precursors of the business establishments that now line downtown Session Road, says Ronald Wong, a third-generation Chinese-Filipino who belongs to an old Baguio family.

The summer capital was designed and built by the American colonial government.

Historian Eufronio Pungayan says many of the road crew imported from China, India and Japan profited from American businessmen, who settled here to develop Benguet mines during that period.

What became downtown Session Road used to be a strip of Chinese and Japanese merchandise stores, as well as the public market, which resembled a typical American Midwest town at the turn of the 20th century, he says.

By 1992, downtown Baguio was dominated completely by Chinese enterprises, easing out two thriving merchandise shops owned by prominent Indian families.

"If we have to estimate, the Chinese [community] can say we are worth P1 billion if we count the investments we all put in [downtown Baguio] for all those years," a Chinese-Filipino businessman says.

But that perceived economic dominance has passed, says Wong, who owns a family restaurant here.

The downtown area now hosts a restaurant owned by a Swiss, several Australian-managed pubs and two buildings owned by Japanese migrants.

"Today, many Filipinos already own their share of the downtown trade, but you will not find one businessman here—whether Chinese, Filipino or American who will turn back investments, even if it came from Koreans," Wong says.

"So what if some of them used dummies to set up business? It's their loss. They have nothing to hold on to in the end because the property will never be registered in their name anyway, so who fooled who?" he says.

Wong says no friction exists between local businessmen and Korean entrepreneurs, and he does not foresee problems cropping up any time soon.

"They cater to their own people, so they don't take anything away from our business. They are not like the giant malls [which are] real threats to [Baguio businessmen]," Wong says.

The INQUIRER learned that most Baguio-based Koreans are oblivious to the controversy their presence has generated.

The oldest Korean migrants documented by the BI settled here in 1996.

Several other "old Korean families" have done good business through restaurants and small groceries, which draw fellow Koreans.

The city licensing office estimates that 40 enterprises operating in Baguio this year are directly or indirectly tied to the local Korean population.

But the city government classifies most of these establishments as language schools.

James Kim set up a small language institution two years ago, and invests P30,000 monthly to keep this business running.

Kim says he chose to work in the city because the weather draws Koreans here.

He found doing business with Baguio residents enriching because he found the community's character more tolerant than some Filipino neighborhoods.

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# Only Korean businesses earn from Korean tourists

## Local operators say the foreigners monopolize all aspects of tourism

**By Jolene R. Bulambot and Irene R. Sino Cruz**
*Inquirer Visayas*

CEBU CITY—THE PHILIPPINES may be enjoying increased arrivals of Korean tourists but the growth has not benefited the tour operators here.

Industry sources say the locals tour companies and support sectors do not earn from the Korean packaged tour groups.

They say a Korean tour guide meets the tour group upon arrival here.

A tour operator who asked for anonymity discloses that the Koreans monopolize almost all aspects of the tour.

"They have their own guides, their own resorts and, even, their own buses," the tour operator says.

Another tour operator confirmed this—Koreans visiting the Philippines refuse to deal with local tour operators.

"Anywhere in the world, you are not allowed to go to another country directly to bring your group there. You have to coordinate with the locals," the tour operator says.

The tour operator says the locals have been asking the Department of Tourism (DOT) to require the Koreans to have an English-speaking Filipino guide for every tour group.

But DOT regional director Patria Aurora Roa says yesterday the absence of Korean-speaking Filipino guides have forced them to accredit Koreans as tour guides.

However, Roa says the DOT has been strict on these Korean tour guides.

"Since I assumed as regional director 14 years ago, I revoked the accreditation of only three Filipino tour guides. But, within a few years since the Koreans started coming, I cancelled the accreditation of 20 Korean tour guides," Roa says.

The violations include falsification of IDs, allowing others to use their IDs and producing IDs for other Koreans, she says.

She says DOT has filed four criminal cases against the violators, some of whom have already been deported.

Although he admits that there are some problems with the Koreans doing business here, Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano says he expected changes since the Korean government has come up with an orientation program for Korean nationals going out of their country to do business.

He notes that these problems might have been due to the different business culture in Korea.

Durano expresses confidence there would be an improvement in the way Koreans do business here, especially if they put in bigger investments.

Already, he says, Korea is the top source of big investments in tourism.

Some top business executives in Seoul have formed a group that aims to package investment in Cebu, Durano says.

The group is eyeing real estate development such as hotels and retirement homes, he adds.

Charlie Shin, general manager of the Korean Association in Cebu, cites Cebu's booming economy and tourism industry as the reason for the growing number of Koreans investing here.

At present, Korean businessmen owned at least 200 business establishments located in the different cities in Cebu ranging from tour agencies, restaurants, Korean-English schools, bars, nightclubs, flying school and convenient stores, Shin says.

Shin tells BusinessMonday that Cebu has been the number one tourist destination for Koreans next to Manila because of its tourist attractions.

"There are plenty of Korean investors here. As of last month, we have around 200 Korean establishments in Cebu. We have other Koreans who were not able to get business permits but have been in partnership with local investors. We project more Korean investors, say 300 to 400 more to come to Cebu. Koreans love Cebu very much. It is our favorite destination," he says.

There are at least 13,000 Koreans residing in Cebu, mostly students and tourists, Shin says.

At least 15,000 Korean tourists and students are expected to visit Cebu starting late this month until August, which is summer in South Korea, he adds.

"Some are having their vacations here so we expect 15,000 more to arrive until August. Every week, we have at least 500 Koreans visiting Cebu and when they return home, they spread a lot of good things about Cebu," he adds.

When asked about allegations that there is overpricing in the tour packages against Korean nationals, Shin admits it is a prevailing problem the Korean community hopes to be resolved immediately.

It's not a problem only in the Philippines but as well as other countries such as the United States and Thailand, he says.

Shin explains that some Korean travel agencies have to charge more to cover the losses they incurred.

"It is true. It is expensive. There is reason for this. Some travel agencies have to charge more to recover from losses. For example, some travel agencies have contracts with airlines and if the seats are not occupied because there are not enough tourists, what happens is they have to shoulder these expenses. For survival, they have to charge more," he says.

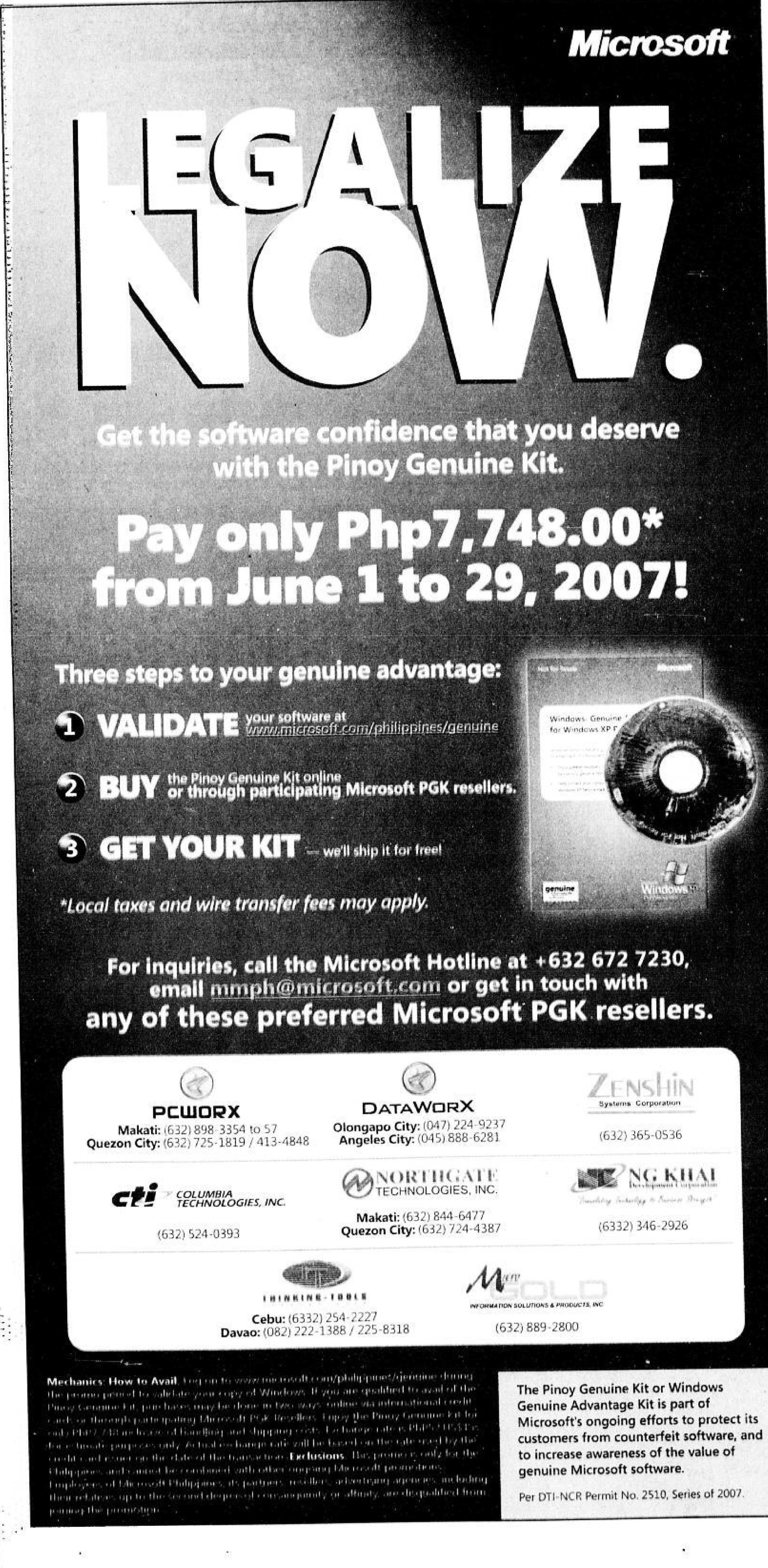
Shin also urges the government such as the DOT and Bureau of Immigration to discuss how to promote Korean tourism in the country and make it cheaper for them to visit the Philippines.

There are 52 to 60 Korean-English schools in Cebu, 17 travel agencies and several restaurants, beach resorts, dive shops, bars and convenient stores owned by Korean nationals.

Based on the data from the DOT Central Visayas, the tourist arrivals in the region grew by 44.57 percent. South Korea remained the top tourist market for the region in the first quarter.

Roa says there have been 16 direct flights to South Korea from Cebu weekly by four different airlines, making it more convenient for Koreans to visit the province.

For the first three months of this year, more than 60,000 Koreans have already visited Cebu followed by 13,000 from the United States, Roa says.



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**CHESKA Ortega** (Gabriella Montez), center, with the cast of "High School Musical On Stage"

# Back-to-'High School Musical'

## The young cast of the Manila stage production of the Disney TV musical manages to join school with 'school'

AS THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL-age children troop back to their classrooms this month, many find company with the young cast of "High School Musical On Stage," who are going back to school as well in real life. And with the staging of the ever-popular Disney TV movie, they have to juggle between classes and rehearsals.

Gabriella Montez, the female lead character of the musical, played by Cheska Ortega, just transferred schools. Despite her many achievements in her past school, Gabriella is wary of her new environment.

But Cheska, 14, an incoming sophomore this school year, understands what the role demands from her. "I used to be extremely shy. When I was young, I did not talk in school for about three months. I was conscious all the time. When I was in grade 2, I attended a theater workshop. That sort of 'fixed' me. Now, when I perform, I still get nervous all the time. My nervousness fades once I start to act and sing on stage."

Troy Bolton, the lead male character, is played by young singing champ, Sam Concepcion, 14. Troy is East High's basketball champ who finds out about his secret passion for singing. He becomes torn between his newfound love and basketball championships. Will he give up one for the other?

Sam, who is extra-busy these days with TV guestings, soap-opera appearances, product endorsements and live performances, has education as top priority. "I will still pursue my high school and, of course, college. I am determined to give time for school, even if it means bringing schoolwork during rehearsals and tapings." Sam manages by being home schooled.

Sharpay Evans, the girl-to-watch-out-for, is

BACK/ C2

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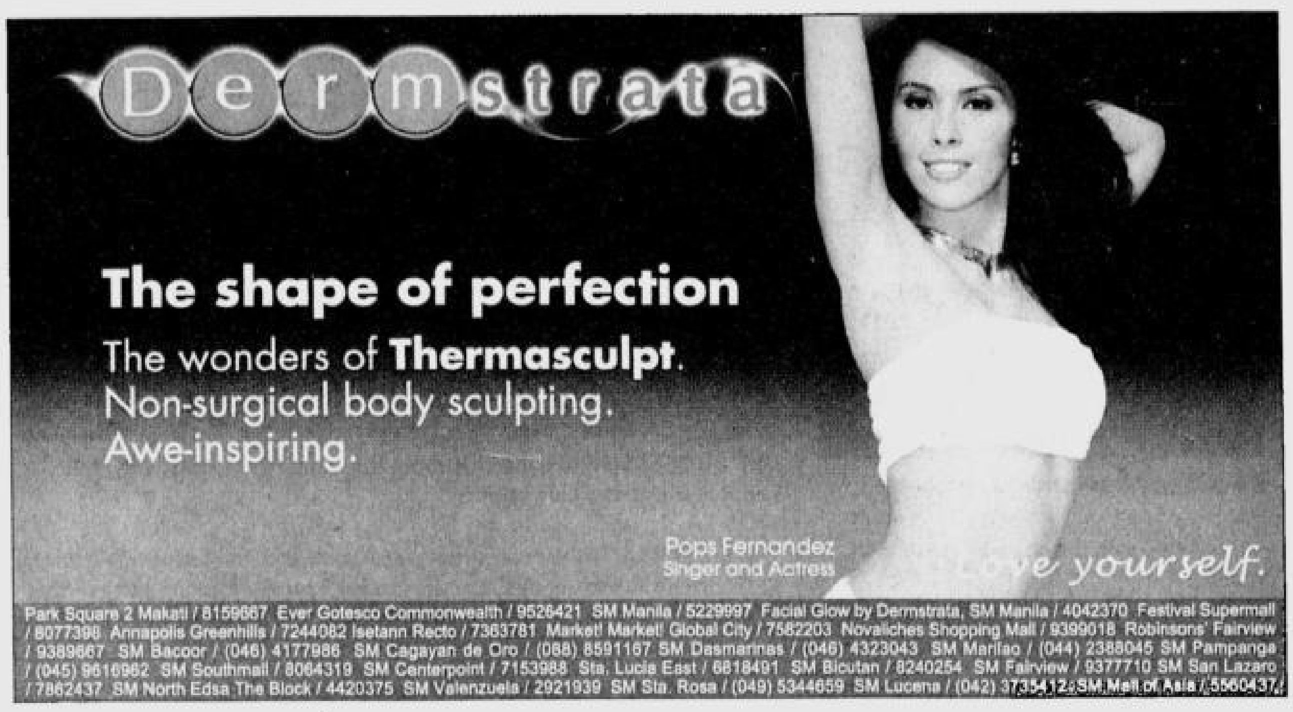

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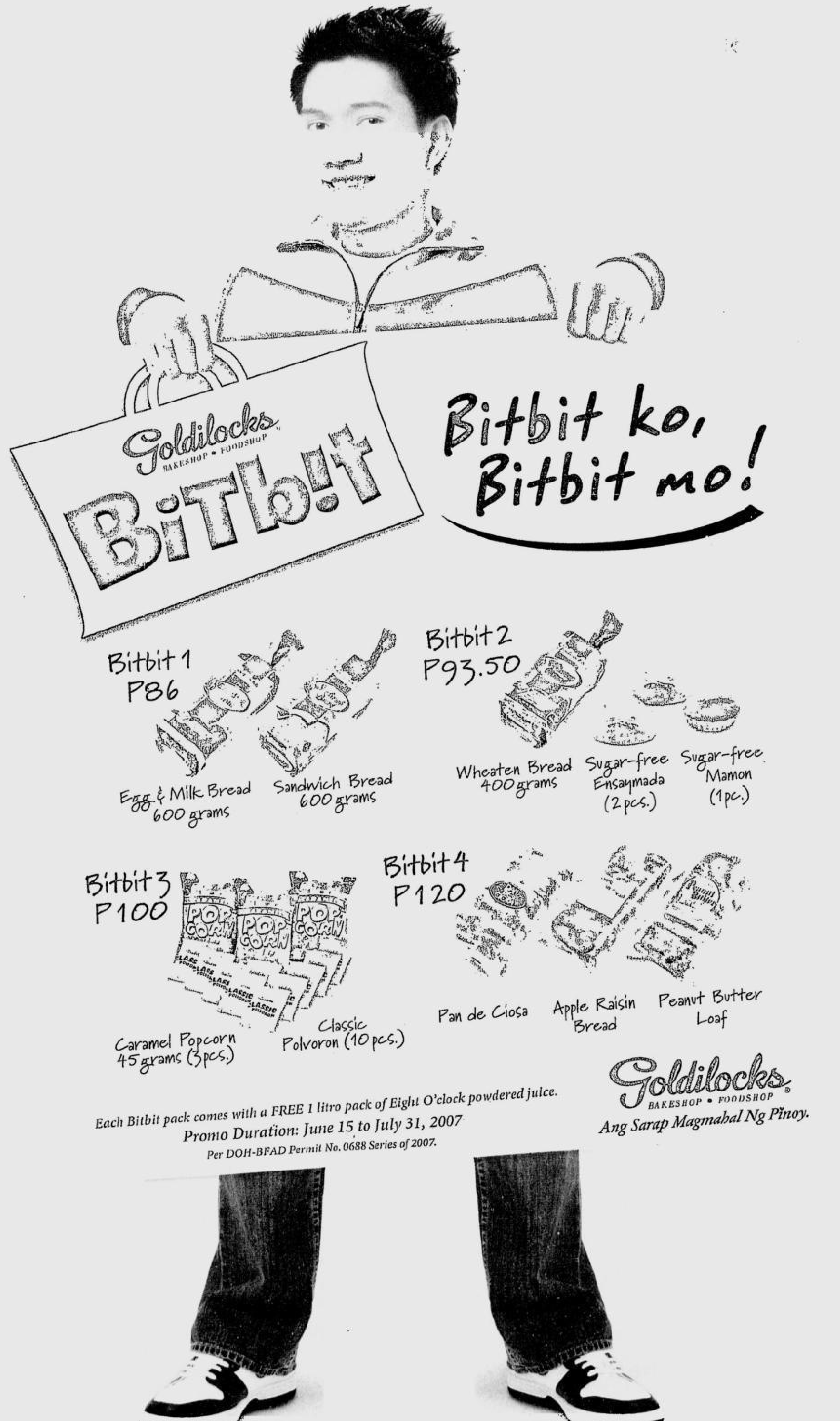

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**ROMANIAN** violin superstar Alexandru Tomescu with student Gabrielle A. Fernandez, a sixth-grader from St. Paul's College Pasig, during the master class at the Fernandez residence

## *Free concerts at LRT, MRT*

THE ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE School of Music presents "Konsyerto Alay sa Inyo" at the MRT Ayala Station on June 28, 3 p.m.; LRT Liwasang Bonifacio Station, on July 5, 3 p.m.; and at SM Megamall Aug. 11, 5 p.m.

Sr. Mary Placid, OSB, dean and chair of the music school's centennial committee, says the free concerts are part of the "Celebration of 100 Years of Music."

The first formal music school in the country, St. Scholastica's School of Music, was founded in 1907 with the arrival of Sr. Baptista Battig.

"Konsyerto" is a continuing outreach program of the school, wherein faculty, students, alumnae and guests play classic al and contemporary music, from Mozart to Broadway and original Pilipino music. Admission is free.

The concerts have the support of Roberto Lastimoso and Mel Robles of the MRT and LRT administrations, respectively.

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# When artists and craftsmen connect

**By Pablo A. Tariman**
*Contributor*

BEFORE I SAW MY FIRST PIANO recital, the piano had been a mere furniture, a status symbol for middle-upper-class families. But when I heard my first piano recital 32 years ago, the seemingly lifeless and pretentious furniture became The Piano.

It became a symbol of something divine, a bridge between humdrum life and spiritual gratification, a symbol of what life could be in the hands of gifted artists.

When I became a concert organizer, The Piano became a business transaction between me and piano craftsmen, dealers and manufacturers. I had to make piano rentals and deal with costs involving piano tuners and moving pianos around—from Manila to Albay, and on to Nueva Ecija, Isabela in Cagayan Valley and to as far as Paoay and Currimao in Ilocos Norte.

Piano owners, movers, dealers and manufacturers I've worked with include Lyric Piano's Corky Lopez and Wittemberg Piano's Sany Rigby of Bacolod City. I've also worked with piano tuners such as Pablo Umali, Danny Lumabi, Romy Comoda, Tomy Gay and Enteng Galan (of Bacolod City) and many more.

I witnessed another kind of piano connection in the two-part commemorative installation project "Mang Emo/Maghimo Grand Piano Project," which opened at the CCP and closed in Galleria Duemila in Pasay City.

The installation was by Western Australia-based Filipino artist Alwin Reamillo, whose late father Decimo, or Mang Emo, was a piano maker and inventor who co-founded the now defunct Javincello and Company, maker of Wittemberg pianos. The installation project was a tribute to the artist's father.

But before closing his installation exhibit, Alwin talked about connections between piano craftsmen and keyboard artists and how one was worthless without the other. He was probably reliving his own private piano connection with his late father whose world revolved around piano parts and piano strings.

Before the concert, we saw the parts and machines used in making pianos along with mixed-media works such as "Study for the Conjoined Twin Piano Project," "Upright Piano," "Coco.piano.t+Guitar" and "Binilaokan Concerto No. 3."

And so, before the concert, we saw the evolution of the piano and the machines and gadgets that made up the musical life and times of Mang Emo, the piano maker.

Mang Emo + Maghimo Grand Piano Project

For the exhibit, Alwin collaborated with real piano craftsmen such as Jaime Pastorfide, Sabas Rabino Jr and Tranquilino Tosio Jr.

To end the exhibit, the keyboard artists took over.

Remely Bianca Montanez played a magical Impromptu in A Flat Minor, Op. 90, by Schubert. Jourdan Petalver showed ravishing technique and style in Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies No. 6 and 12.

Eira May Torda showcased Augusto Espino's superb arrangement of Filipino folksongs in the suite.

Harold Galang and Katherine Fernandez dazzled the audience with Smetana's "Festival of the Bohemian Peasants" and Ginastera's Danzas Argentinas. Greg Zuniega provided a much-loved contrast with two movements from Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata."

The vocal revelation of the mini-concert was 15-year-old soprano, Mia Ariana Tangciongco from the Philippine High School for the Arts, with Franz Niduaza on the piano. Her aria from Pergolesi's "La Serva Padrona" sparkled. Ending with Santiago's "Ano Kaya ang Kapalaran," the young music scholar showed she was a very promising talent.

As finale, pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria with Jonathan Coo rendered a peerless Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2, which triggered a rousing standing ovation.

Said Reamillo: "Without the piano craftsmen, there would be no instruments. And without the keyboard artists, the piano can't sing. In this context, I hope you see the connection."

### Violin master class

I witnessed another kind of connection in the master class conducted by Romanian violinist Alexandru Tomescu before he left for Romania.

From performer, he became a teacher in another setting, and showed how a seasoned performer could share expertise with promising young players.

The setting was the Pasig City residence of Manolo Fernandez and his wife, whose sixth-grade daughter Gabrielle started early on violin along with Julien and Regine Imperial and Brian Cimafranca.

In this master-class setting, the participants who saw the recital of the Romanian violinist looked up to the teacher as a model. Tomescu said he should not be treated as a teacher but as a co-player who was just sharing his long years of experience as concert artist.

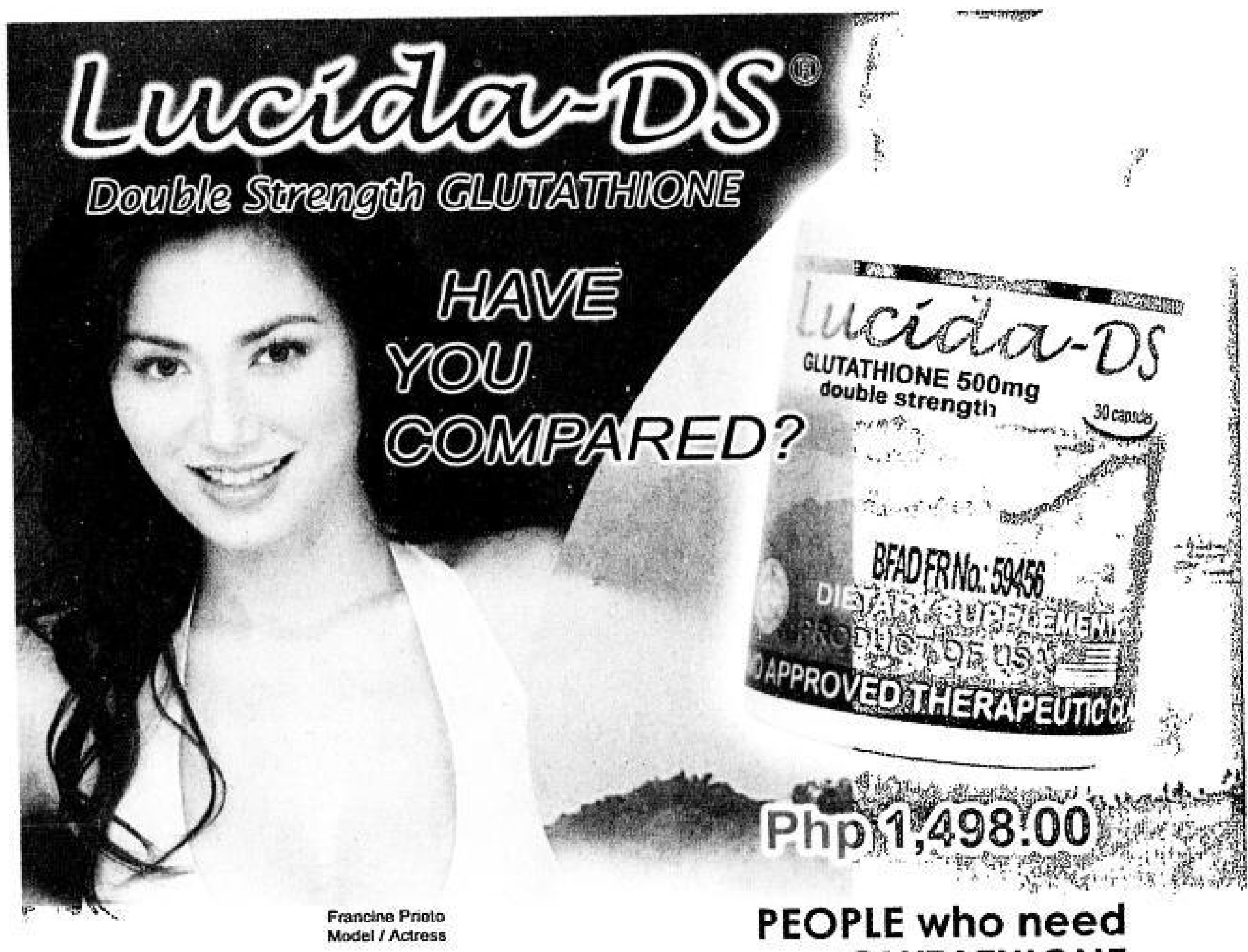
But as I looked at the parents (the Fernandezes and the Imperials), I realized they were also the important connection which linked their children to the performing arts.

When big artists share generously with young artists and the parents encourage children to interact with great artists, the arts, one realizes, have a big chance of surviving in this pop-music dominated society.

### Corrections

In my previous article on the Russian artists, I wrote that Lisa Macuja Elizalde also danced The Swan immortalized by the great Maya Plisetskaya. Susan Macuja called to say that The Swan had never been part of her daughter's repertoire. I stand corrected.

Let me also clarify that pianist Oliver Salonga passed the Juilliard auditions after his Lynn University schooling (where he graduated summa cum laude) and not before his entrance to the university.



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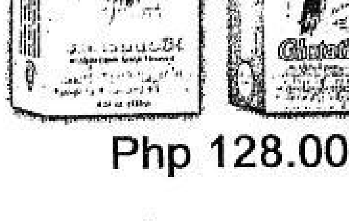

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**DIRECTOR** Audie Gemora with the cast

# Back-to-'High School Musical'

From page C1

played by alternate Athena Tibi, 18, an incoming third-year Management major at the University of Asia and the Pacific. Sharpay is arrogant about her performing skills. Thus, she would insist on things to happen her way. She only bonds with her twin brother, Ryan.

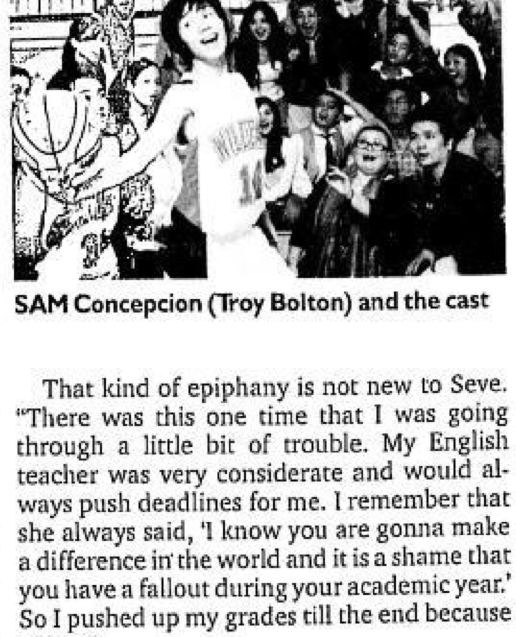
Athena, in real life, enjoys the company of her friends in school. "I love our study groups, I am thankful for my friends for supporting me. At first, I have difficulty dealing with math subjects, but with their help I am able to manage."

### Brainiac

Carl Andre Castro, a brainiac in the show, is played by Ken Magdangal, 16. Just like Carl, Ken is considered a bright boy, having bagged the President Macapagal-Arroyo Outstanding Excellence in Technology and Entrepreneurship Award in high school. He is on his way to his Nursing class this school year at University of Sto. Tomas, as he prepares to take up Medicine in the future.

Brainiac or not, Ken believes one can learn not only in books. "In school, you also learn things by mingling with other people. School prepares you for life by making you more aware of yourself and others."

Chad Danforth, Troy's best bud and whose heart is into basketball, is played by Seve Ching, 15. He opposed Troy's musical inclination at the start. He believed good basketball players were to be found on the court, not in the theater. But seeing his best friend's struggles made him realize he could be wrong.



**SAM** Concepcion (Troy Bolton) and the cast

That kind of epiphany is not new to Seve. "There was this one time that I was going through a little bit of trouble. My English teacher was very considerate and would always push deadlines for me. I remember that she always said, 'I know you are gonna make a difference in the world and it is a shame that you have a fallout during your academic year.' So I pushed up my grades till the end because of her."

*Stages and Trumpets Playshop's production of Disney's "High School Musical On Stage" runs at Meralco Theater on weekends of June 23-July 15. For tickets, call Ticketworld at 891-9999 or Stages at 818-1111 local 209 or 225.*

# UP Baguio holds centennial lecture series

THE UP CENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES OF the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) kicks off on June 20, with cultural critic and historian Resil Mojares delivering a lecture on the importance of Isabelo de los Reyes in Philippine intellectual life.

His lecture, "Isabelo's Archive: The Importance of Isabelo de los Reyes in Philippine Studies," stems from his most recent book, "Brains of the Nation," published by the Ateneo University Press in 2006. Mojares will discuss how De la Reyes' body of works provides guideposts in terms of the agenda, content, language and form of Filipino scholarship.

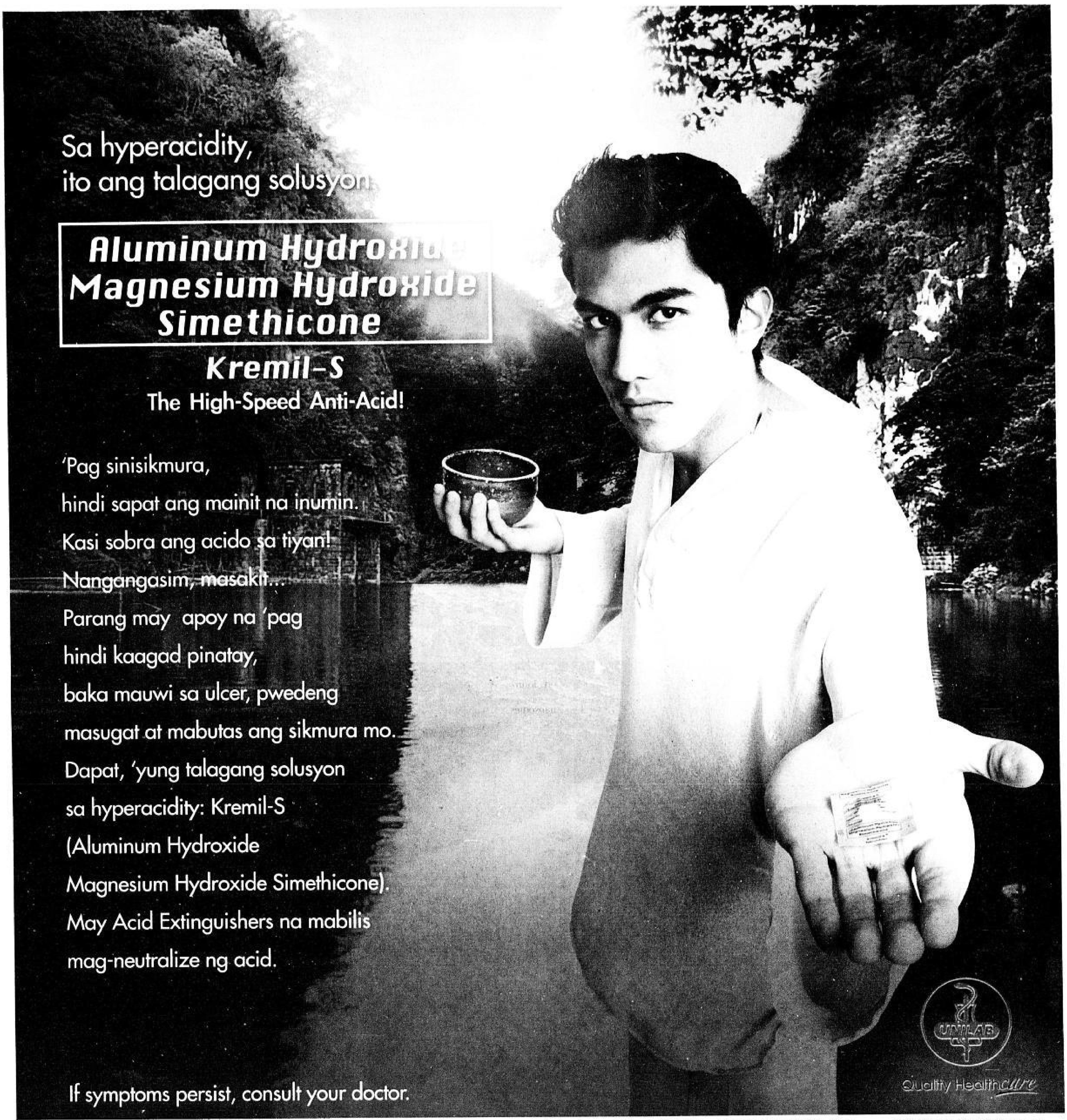
Born in Vigan, De los Reyes is known in Philippine history as one of the major Propagandists and founder of the first workers' union in the Philippines. He also played a major role in the establishment of the Philippine Independent Church.

Mojares is professor emeritus at University of San Carlos in Cebu. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Philippine culture and society. His book "The Rise of the Filipino Novel" is considered by many as one of the most important contributions to Philippine literary scholarship.

Lecture starts 2:30 p.m. at Bulwagang Juan Luna. It is open to the public.

## Book sale

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERsity Press will hold its annual book sale until June 29, 8 a.m.-12 noon and 1 p.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and until 5 p.m. on Friday, at the press bookshop in Bellarmine Hall of the Loyola Heights campus. All its titles will be sold at less 10-50 percent. Call 4265984, e-mail unipress@admu.net.ph, visit www.ateneopress.org. Cookies and coffee to be served.



'Pag sinisikmura,
hindi sapat ang mainit na inumin.
Kasi sobra ang acido sa tiyan!
Nangangasim, masakit...
Parang may apoy na 'pag
hindi kaagad pinatay,
baka mauwi sa ulcer, pwedeng
masugat at mabutas ang sikmura mo.
Dapat, 'yung talagang solusyon
sa hyperacidity: Kremil-S
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mag-neutralize ng acid.

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

## Luis Manzano talks about life, burping, and hyperacidity.

**Ok, do you ever get hyperacidic?**
Oh, a lot. But just the mild kind. I get hyperacidic when I'm stressed at work, which is like all the time. I burp.

**Loudly?**
I just burped. Did you hear anything? I'm good.

**Ok. Do you drink coffee or tea?**
I drink coffee AND tea.

**Aha, did you know you can get hyperacidity if you drink too much coffee or tea?**
So that's why! Sometimes 'pag sinisikmura ako, I drink coffee or tea. Then instead na gumaling, parang lalo pang lumalala. Siguro nawawala lang ang sakit, pero 'yung acid nandun pa rin.

**Wow, you know quite a deal about hyperacidity!**
Hindi naman. I learned some things about it. Like hindi sapat ang kumain ng biscuit kapag sinisikmura. Or maglagay ng liniment sa tiyan. Or kumain ng candy. Or itulog ang sakit. Or kumain ng marami. Lahat 'yan hindi talaga solusyon sa hyperacidity.

**Ano ang talagang solusyon sa hyperacidity?**
Edi 'yung may Acid Extinguishers: Kremil! Kasi ang acid parang apoy na kapag hindi mo lubusang pinatay, baka mabutas ang tiyan mo sa ulcer. Delikado!

**Hindi pala dapat minamaliit ang paninikmura?**
Talaga. Akala mo simpleng sakit lang ng tiyan 'yan. Hindi. Pwedeng lumala maging ulcer. Mahirap na 'yon! Kaya dapat at the first sign of hyperacidity, take Kremil na kaagad.

**Do you actually use it?**
I do because it's really effective for me.

**Since when?**
Actually, tinitiis ko lang talaga before because I thought like other ailments, it will just go away or heal by itself and I didn't need to take medicine for it. But when I was talking to the Unilab team, they explained to me that if you don't neutralize the excess acid, it can burn the lining in your stomach and lead to ulcer. Syempre natakot ako. Tamang-tama there were lots of products during the pictorial so I started taking Kremil and it works talaga!

**Endorser ka ba ng Kremil?**
Obvious ba? :-)
Seriously, I'm proud of it. Kasi malaking tulong talaga siya. That's why I always keep tablets of Kremil in my pocket. Hindi mo alam kung kailan biglá kang manikmura. Ako pa naman sa sobrang busy sometimes I skip meals. Doon malala ang nararamdaman ko.

**So what's keeping you busy these days?**
Rounin. Taping three days a week which usually lasts until the morning. I go to the gym regularly, maybe two or three times a week. I don't go out or gimik anymore kasi wala na talagang time eh. Usually my friends just come over and drink.

**Do you smoke?**
Nope. Never.

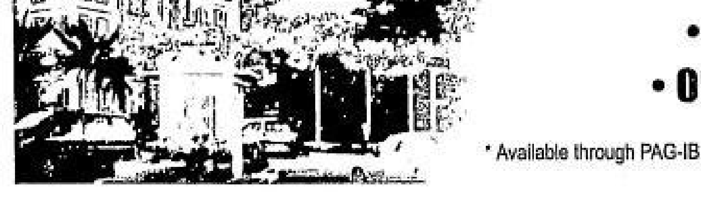
**Why?**
I just don't like it.

**Pa-good boy effect?**
No, seriously, I never tried smoking and never will.

**That's great. Kasi alam mo ba nakaka-hyperacidity din ang smoking?**
'Yun nga. Besides it doesn't smell good.

**Any messages to your fans?**
Yes, this: Thank you thank you thank you for all your support and I love you all. And also I would like to thank Kremil for getting me as their endorser kasi i really believe in it and i use it.

**"I would never endorse anything naman that I don't believe in."**
I'm recommending it also to my fans. Kremil is the high-speed anti-acid!



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# A playwright by imperative

## A new book collects the award-winning dramatic works of Nick Pichay. It will be launched June 29

**By Ichabod Diwalwal Jr.**
*Contributor*

NICK PICHAY'S HOME IN Mandaluyong is charming from the outside, with a trellis of yellow bells arching over a steel gate that opens to a garage where a pocket garden lies on one side and a shiny red car is parked cheek by jowl with it.

Inside, the ambiance warmly opens up with family pictures, vintage *narra* furniture from their old house in Quiapo, a silver framed mirror that covers almost half a wall, and an antique wood sculpture that has been variously identified as St. Ambrose, St. Peter or some other saint wearing a bishop's garb.

On June 29, the University of the Philippines Press will launch an anthology of three of his award-winning works for theater (the first two) and television (the last one): "Psychedelia Apocalypsis," "Pangulo Naming Mahal" (Our Dear President), and "Babaeng Tilapia Natagpuan sa Coastal Road" (Fish Lady Found along the Coastal Road).

Eleven other books—ranging from the sciences to the humanities—will also be presented to the public on that day.

### Creative procreation

When I arrive, Pichay is working on a court pleading.

"Hey," I tease, "I thought you were a playwright?"

"For your information," he plays along, "I'm a lawyer by orientation and a playwright by imperative."

Pichay works on the third floor, a spacious attic ("A garret," he corrects. "And it's only spacious when you live alone") divided by a wall to make two rooms.

There's a modest guest room on one side and a study room on the other with books overflowing from the book cases, some even lying on the rug.

His laptop is open. Beside it is a big standing Ifugao *bulol*, with an even bigger, uhm, fertility organ.

"For creative procreation," he explains.

There are books lying in a trail formation like giant ants on their way to a food convention. He must have been reading on the floor.

"This is how I work," he says. "I have attention-deficit disorder. One second I am working on a play, and the next thing I know, I'm reading Camus."

He is always joking. He doesn't read Camus.

### Very impatient

But I believe him when he says he is writing. His plays have been performed by the major theater companies and shown in Manila, Europe, Hong Kong and Hawaii. He also has a reputation for "hovering" during rehearsals.

At these times, he can be very impatient. In his younger years, he even took over a production rehearsal from an irate director.

"The director didn't understand the text. He came to the set unprepared! But I've never done it since, and I've remained friends with that director despite the shouting match," he says.

In spite of this reputation (or maybe because of it), theater directors regard him in high esteem, especially as a collaborator in the staging of his works.

He insists that I mention some of the directors he has worked with as a playwright ("in no particular order," he adds): Tony Mabesa, Anton Juan, Paul Morales, Vincent de Jesus, Maribel Legarda, Melvin Lee, Rody Vera, Aureus Solito.

**ESTEEMED** collaborator

In his introduction to the book, National Artist for Literature Bien Lumbera summarizes the probable reason why the UP press chose the three plays to anthologize: "The plays in the collection may be viewed as comprising an evolution in Philippine theater and a vantage point to assess the future direction of playwriting. (*Sa mga dulang ito "mapagsisimulan sa pag-alam kung ano na ang nagbago sa teatro ng Filipinas at saan tayo ipinapatnig ng nasabing pagbabago."*)

Pichay's books are great to have or give away for birthdays, Christmas, monthsaries or any other happy occasion. It is so easy to empathize with the characters in his works as they are undeniably funny.

His plots, although familiar, are often unconventionally worked out. And his dialogue often plays with rhythm and meaning, a favorite of actors as well as fun to read aloud when in the loo.

Pichay will autograph his book and pose with fans (if there are any) for photo-ops at the Bahay Kalinaw launching, June 29, 6 p.m. Cocktails will be served.

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Some people love ultra slim cameras. And some people love ultra sharp pictures. For people who love both, Canon introduces the new Digital IXUS 70. Measuring only 19.4mm in thickness, it features the far superior linear lens instead of a conventional tuck-and-fold type lens. The result is a level of clarity, sharpness and precision unprecedented in a digital camera this slim. What's more, it comes with the powerful DIGIC III Imaging Processor for fast and accurate operation, and a new Pure Colour LCD that helps you see and compose your photos better. It even features Multiple Face Detection for shooting spectacular-looking group photos. The slim yet sharp Digital IXUS 70. Who says you can't have it all?

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# Focus on Alexander McCall Smith

A DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY professor and successful writer, Alexander McCall Smith is PowerBooks Author of the Month for June.

Smith has written more than 60 books ranging from reference works to children's titles. He became immensely popular with his detective series, "The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency," which follows the quirky adventures of Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's finest and only female detective.

Along with the labyrinthine plots, the heroine also provides observations on the culture and traditions of Botswana and Africa. The series, is reportedly being optioned for film.

His other book series are "Professor Dr. von Igelfeld Entertainment Series" (2003); "The Sunday Philosophy Club" (2004-2007); and "The 44 Scotland Street Series" (2005-2007).

He has been bestowed the Waterstone's Author of the Year, Crime Writers' Association Dagger in the Library Award and British Book Awards Author of the Year.

In 2007, the veteran educator and writer was awarded a CBE for his services to literature.

Smith was born in Zimbabwe, where he spent more than 20 years before moving to Scotland to study law. He is emeritus professor of medical law at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and is an expert on medical law and bioethics. He left in 2005 to fully pursue his writing career.

**ALEXANDER** McCall Smith

His books are available at PowerBooks Specialty Store which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428 to 29); SM Megamall (6352898 to 99); Alabang Town Center (8505662 to 63); Glorietta 3 (7527075); Shangri-La (6380023/25); Robinson's Place Ermita (5233334, 5243448); SM Mall of Asia (5560244); Festival Supermall (8508221); and Trinoma (9431581/82).

# *Writers' workshop offers fellowships*

THE ATENEO INSTITUTE OF Literary Arts and Practices (Ailap) is accepting applications for the 7th Ateneo National Writers Workshop to be held on Oct. 22-27.

Each applicant should submit a portfolio of any of the following works: five poems, three short stories, or two one-act plays, written in Filipino or English, with a title page bearing the author's pseudonym and a table of contents.

The portfolio must also be accompanied by a diskette containing a file of the documents saved in Rich Text Format.

All submissions should include a sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, contact numbers and a one-page resumé including a literary curriculum vitae with a 1x1 ID picture.

Twelve fellows will be chosen from all over the country. Food and lodging accommodations will be provided.

Please address entries to: Marco A. V. Lopez, acting director, AILAP, c/o Filipino Department, Horacio de la Costa Hall, Loyola Schools, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

Deadline of submissions is on Aug 3. Call 4266001 local 5320-22 or e-mail mvlopez @ateneo. edu.

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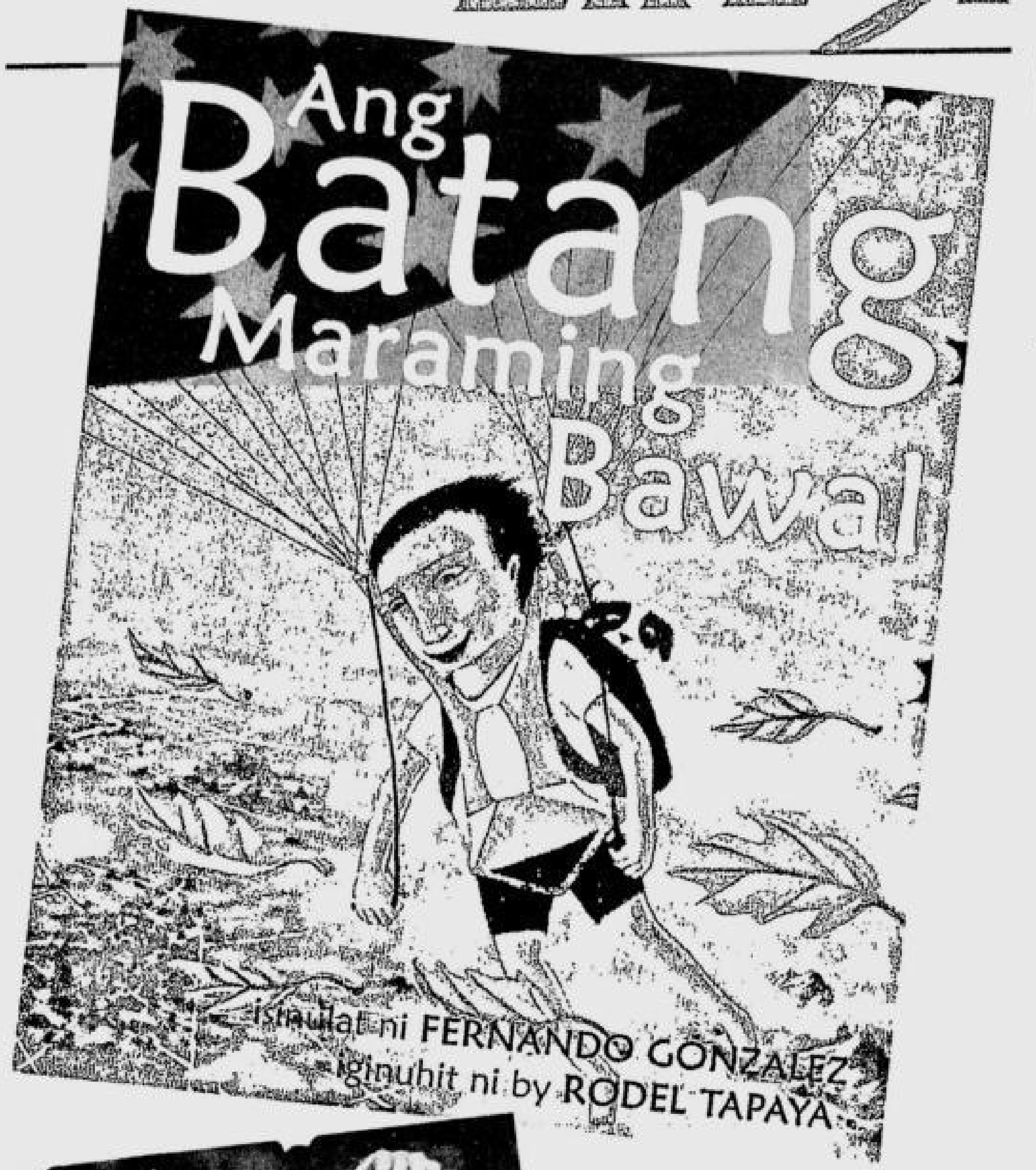

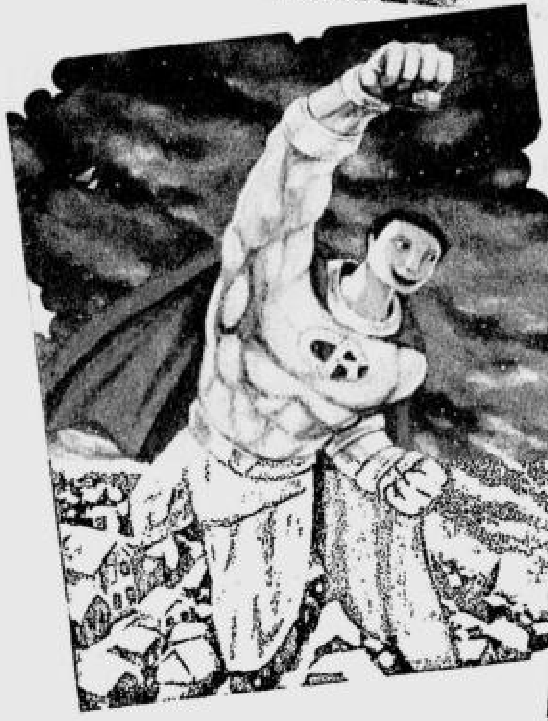

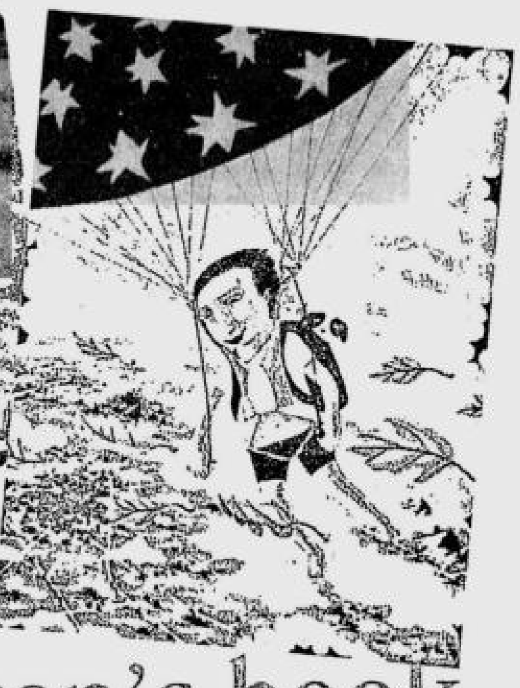

# New children's book and suite of paintings launched today

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK, "Ang Batang Maraming Bawal," written by Fernando Gonzalez, winner of the second annual Romeo Forbes Children's Storywriting Competition, will be launched today at 6 p.m. at the Art Space of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

The bilingual book has an English translation by poet Rebecca Añonuevo. It is edited by critic-teacher Oscar Campomanes.

The launch will coincide with the unveiling of artist Rodel Tapaya's collection of paintings that were used as illustrations for the book.

The book is jointly published by Canvas, which promotes and assists young artists, and the UST Publishing House.

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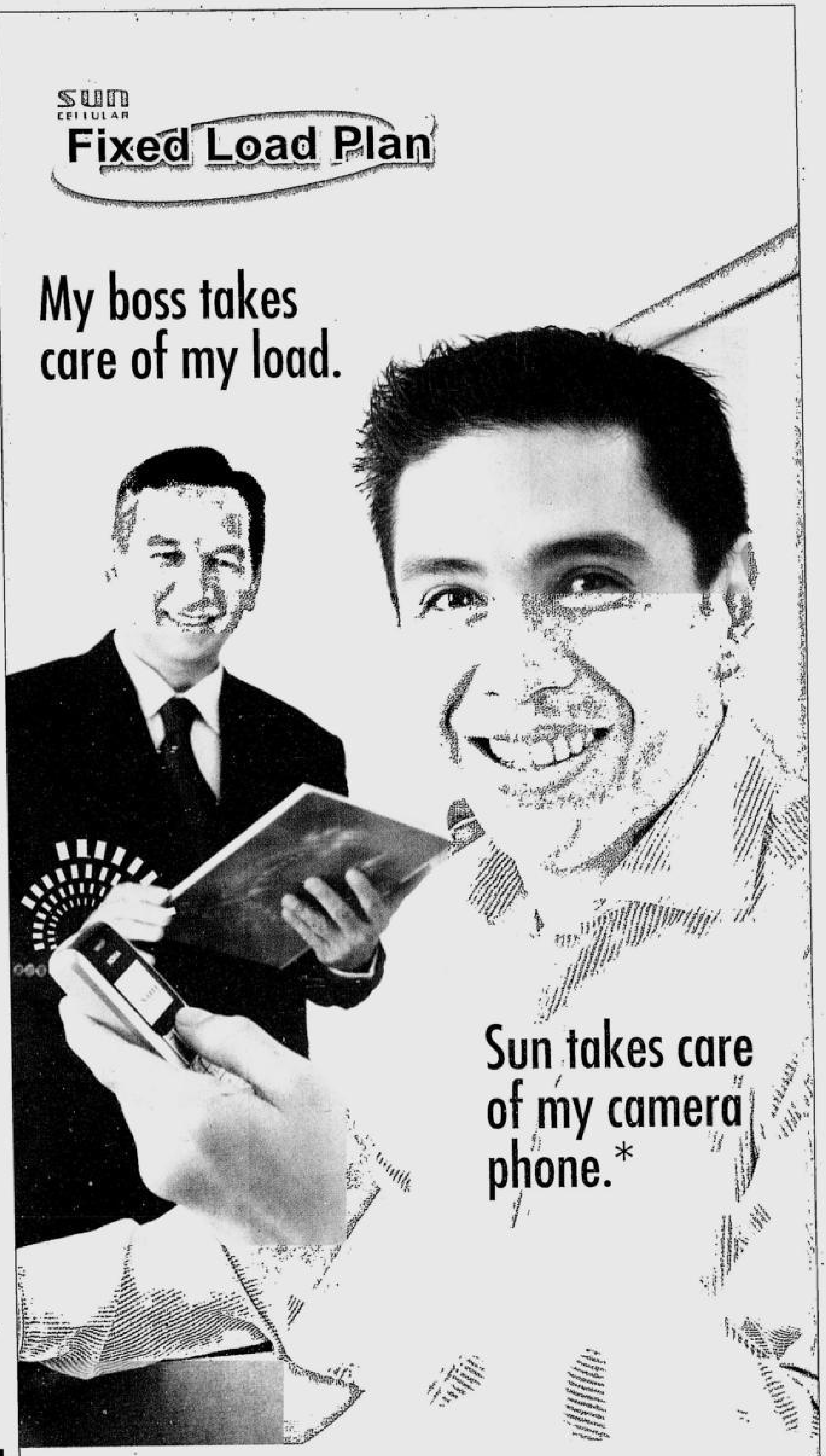
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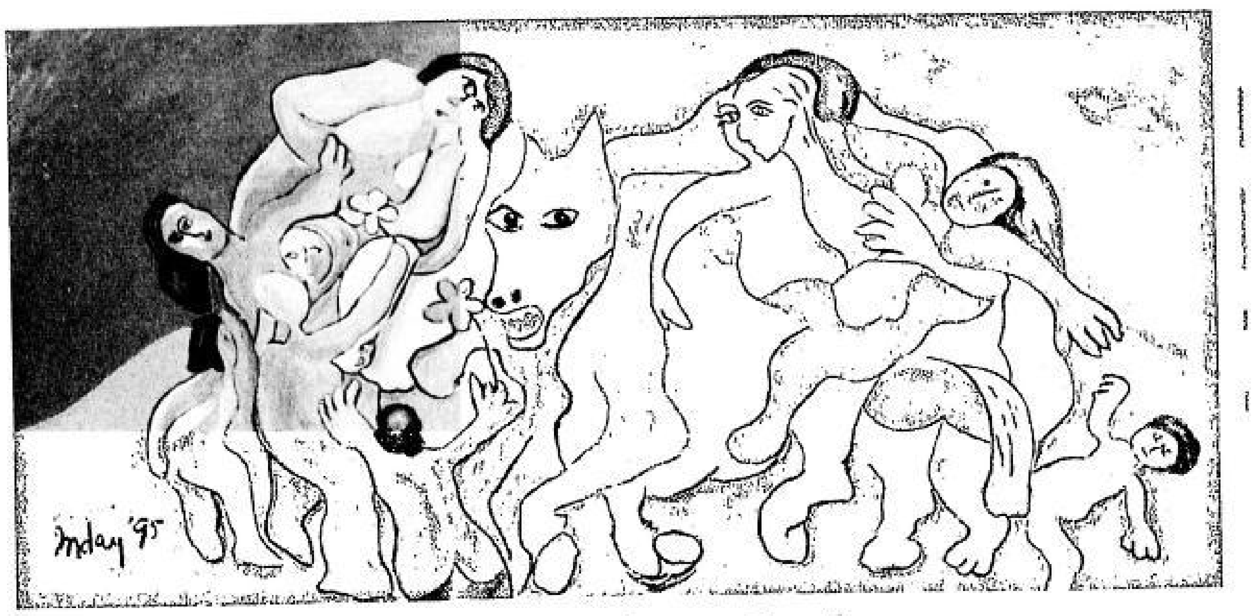
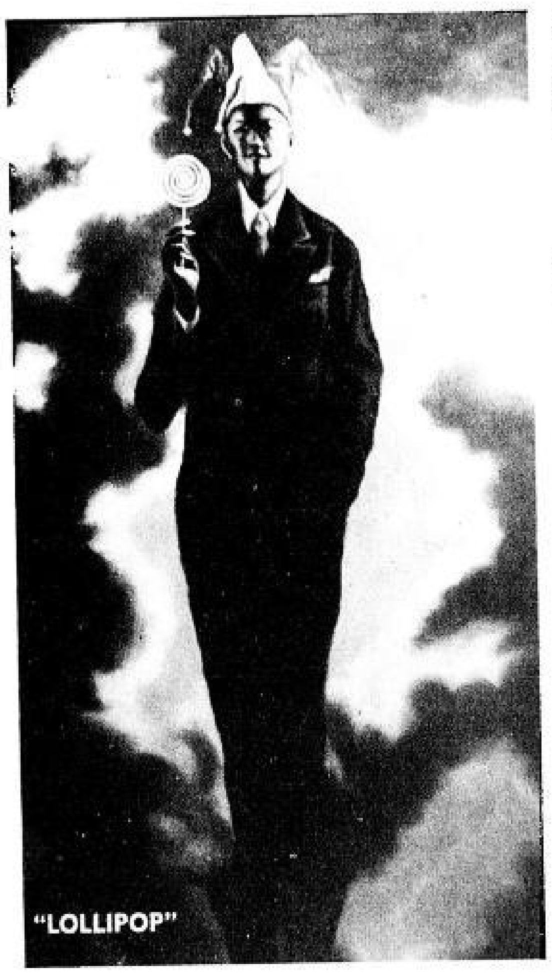


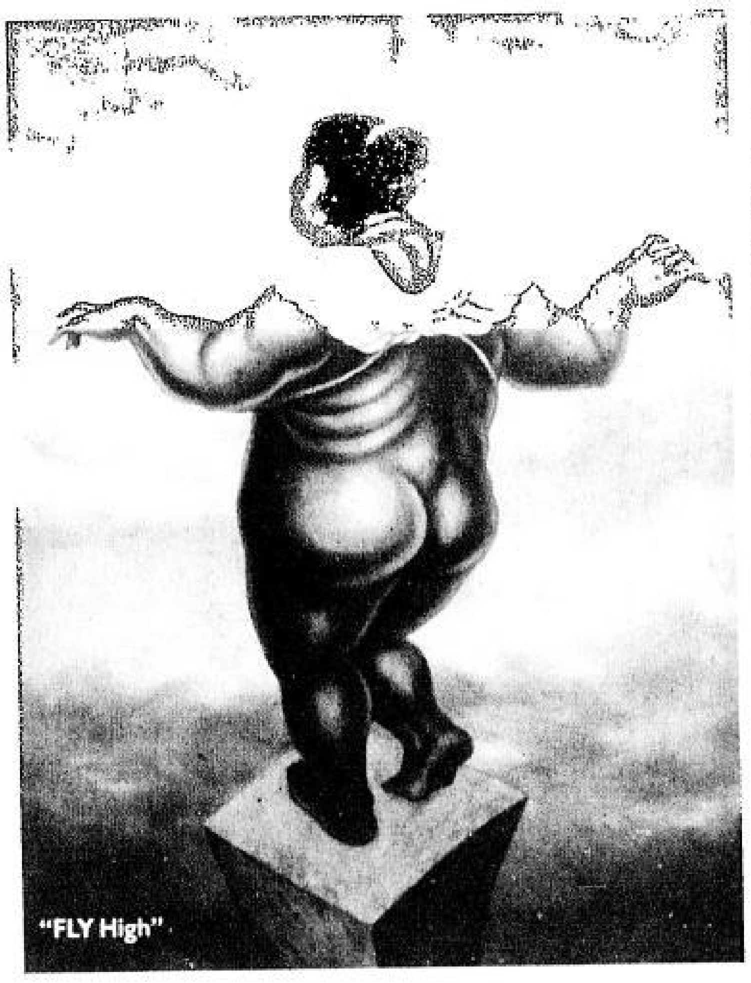
## Tribute to Inday Cadapan

"THE FILIPINA ACCORDING TO INDAY," AN ART EXHIBITION IN MEMORY OF INDAY CADAPAN, OPENS WITH cocktails on June 20, 7 p.m., at 1/of Gallery, L/2, Serendra, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Exhibit runs until June 30. Call 901-3152 for details.



"LOLLIPOP"



"FLY High"

# Images of isolation and bliss

**By Constantino C. Tejero**

AFTER VIRTUALLY DISAPpearing from the art scene for some years, Vincent Padilla has mounted his second solo show in half a year, following his exhibit of a life of congestion in the *eskinita* in February.

This time he is exploring life in isolation in "Oubliette," pieces in oil on canvas, in Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Taking the torture and isolation chamber as metaphor, he once again turns an idea upside down, as he did with the *eskinita*, and transforms what's dark and forbidding into something lighthearted and pastel-colored. Oubliette is a secret dungeon accessible only from a hatch in the ceiling, but here the artist visualizes it as a four-corner tower reduced into a box form on which perches a figure isolated against the sky.

Says Padilla: "To exit an oubliette was nearly impossible without outside help. The word comes from the French word *oublier*, 'to forget,' as it was used for those prisoners the captors wished to forget. This exhibit focuses on individual oubliettes, or the individual as oubliette—an isolation tower of choice, prejudice and arrogance."

To him, the box represents "our limitations to move and to think," thus through the years it has played a vital role in his art.

He explicates: "Bound by our own respective boxes—we live in a box [house], ride in a box [car], and spend our time watching the idiot box [television]. Our life is surrounded by boxes. The oubliette stands for both a pedestal and a chamber of humiliation and isolation."

Instead of feeling disturbed by the imagery, however, the viewer feels the innocent bliss of these people, limned in primary and secondary colors in pastel tone with some gray and gold, while they act out their roles in life as revealed by the paintings' titles: "Siklista" (cyclist in yellow, yellow-green, white and pink), "Juggler," "Sayaw" (ballerina in pink and white), "Torotot" (trumpet-player), "Manunuyo" (masked lover in blue, pink and white), "Beer King" (potbellied drinker in white and violet).

Clearly we are seeing things here through rose-tinted glasses, or the artist is just expanding the metaphor. Admits Padilla: "Instead of pain, fear, loneliness and sorrow, I illustrated happiness and positive images."

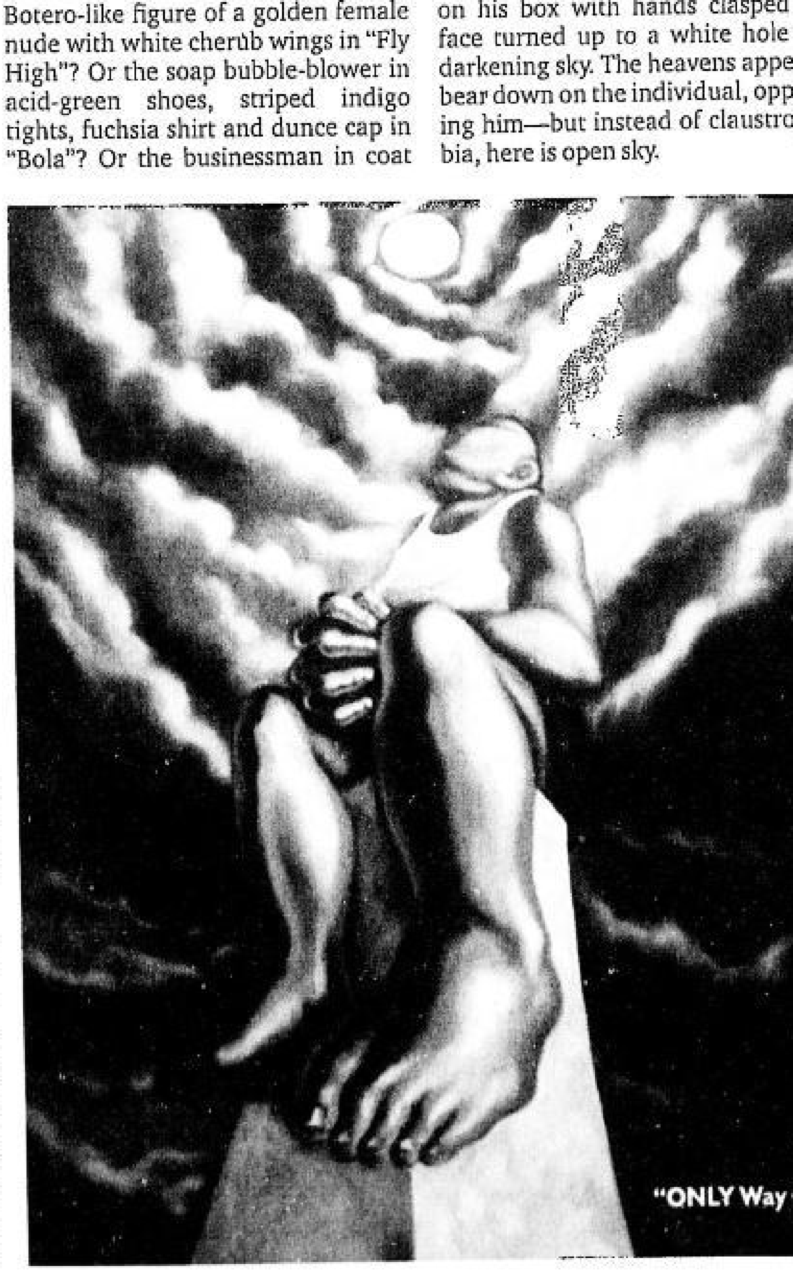
Indeed, some may be upset that instead of confronting the real issue of torture and isolation, the artist could be glossing over the metaphor, thus purveying escapism. This is like seeing Social Realism melt into ethereal symbolist art.

But then, who could resist that Botero-like figure of a golden female nude with white cherub wings in "Fly High"? Or the soap bubble-blower in acid-green shoes, striped indigo tights, fuchsia shirt and dunce cap in "Bola"? Or the businessman in coat and tie and jester's cap holding up a striped candy in "Lollipop"?

Not all these figures are totally isolated, though. In some pieces, two boys appear in neighboring towers. In "Pangarap," they're flying white kites from their respective perch. In "Mensahe," they're playing with paper airplanes, sending their message to the world.

Says Padilla: "I believe that real happiness comes from within, and isolation gives one a chance to find it."

That is clearly illustrated by "Only Way Out," an image of a boy sitting on his box with hands clasped and face turned up to a white hole in a darkening sky. The heavens appear to bear down on the individual, oppressing him—but instead of claustrophobia, here is open sky.

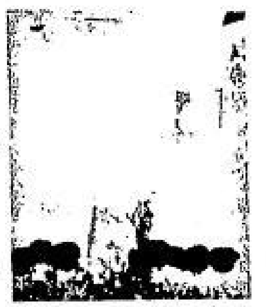


"ONLY Way Out"

## VISUAL ARTS

### Pacquing, Llaguno at Mag:net

Bernardo Pacquing shows his new works in "Envisage," at the Mag:net Gallery (Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City), until June 30. The paintings are like a child's wanton scribblings on the walls of a mid-20th-century dwelling with the original coat of paint marked intermittently by patches, swathes of colors and tones. The scribbles seem to undo familiar imagery to get at memories of childhood and other past experiences. Call 817-7895, e-mail magnetplus@gmail.com or visit www.magnet.com.ph.



By Bernardo Pacquing

Meanwhile, Bicol-based artist Alain Llaguno is having his first one-man show in Manila, "Idiosyncratic," until June 30, at Mag:net Gallery ABS (ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound, QC). The show features mixed-media works that border between two-dimensional abstraction and the sculptural, between the introspective and the idiosyncratic. Llaguno studied at Aquinas University in Bicol and took up Fine Arts at UST. He teaches at Bicol University. Call 410-0995.

"IDIOSYNCRATIC," by Alain Llaguno

### Genre works at DLSU

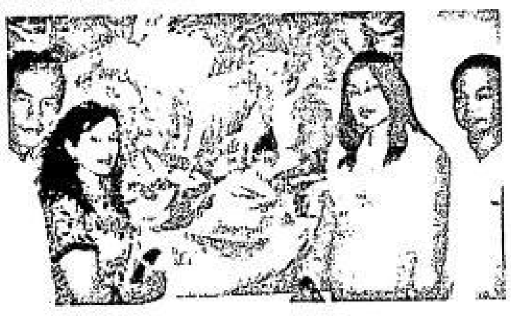
De La Salle University-Manila's The Museum is holding "Faces and Facets of Life," an exhibition of genre art works as well as portraits of past and present DLSU presidents, until Aug 26. Call 524-4611 loc. 368 or e-mail buncabr@dlsu.edu.ph.

### Fontanilla at SSS

Photographer Rudy Fontanilla presents his photo collection until July 6, at the SSS Collection of Art & Antiques Gallery (2/F SSS Main Building, East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City). By light and shadow, Fontanilla transforms drab scenes into something creative.

### Lecture on bamboo at Met

Encarnacion Tan, an architect who has done extensive research on the use and design of bamboo, will deliver "Kawayan Atbp.: The Use of Local Materials in Contemporary Filipino Designs," June 22, 2-5 p.m., at Metropolitan Museum of Manila. The lecture is in connection with "Lawiswis: Mga Kuwentong Buhay mula sa Kawayan," an exhibit on bamboo as represented in the visual and industrial arts. The exhibit runs until July 6 at the Met's Tall Galleries. Call 523-7855 or 536-1566

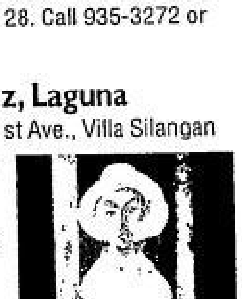


### Lunda artists at Heart Center

The Luntiang Daigdig Artist Group Inc. (Lunda), the pioneering environmental art group, is holding its 43rd exhibit, "Affairs of the Heart," at the lobby of the Philippine Heart Center, Quezon City. On display are landscapes, seascapes and still lifes. Featured artists are Eugene Cañete, Nards Zepeda, Charles de Nava, Bal Fornaliza, Nonoy Pohol, Joe Garcia, Solano Cruz, Rey Conmigo, Jun Taniang, Elver Panuelo, Cony Cajayon, and Ronn de la Cruz. In photo at the opening cocktails are Lunda president De Nava, Charito Lumbao (of the mayor's office of San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan), Dr. Isabelita Roquero and Fornaliza. The exhibit runs until June 28. Call 935-3272 or 0917-5237373.

### 'Litanya' in Sta. Cruz, Laguna

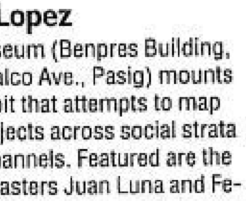
Nineveh Art Space (2452 1st Ave., Villa Silangan Subd., Sta. Cruz, Laguna) will hold "Litanya," consisting of four solo shows—Manny Garibay's "Ama ng Laging Pangako," Mark Justiniani's "SaSILONGalingan," Anthony Palomo's "Balay na Guinto," and Noel Soler Cuizon's "Sancta Virgo Virginum." The simultaneous shows attempt to create a dynamic exchange in visual perception based on iconic references, history and personal references. The show runs June 25-July 15. Call (049)808-6617 or 0916-7720368.



"UNTITLED," by Emmanuel Garibay

### SyCip at Crucible

Alan SyCip presents his latest exhibit "Jazz-Zen," on June 19-July 1 at the Crucible Gallery, 4/F, Bldg. A., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit features SyCip's recent works of improvised brush paintings based on the Zen color scheme of red, black and white. Call 635-6061.



"RISING," by Alan SyCip

### 'Dime a Dozen' at Lopez

The Lopez Memorial Museum (Benpres Building, Exchange Road and Meralco Ave., Pasig) mounts "Dime a Dozen," an exhibit that attempts to map the journey of cultural objects across social strata and across trends and channels. Featured are the works of 19th-century masters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo and contemporary artists Tad Ermitaño, Alwin Reamillo and Gerardo Tan. Call 631-2417 or e-mail pezseum@skyinet.net

"WINDOW of Tranquility, Somerset"

### Olmedo-Araneta at Ayala

Gisella Olmedo-Araneta, daughter of the late Onib Olmedo, will mount her first solo exhibit, "Waters, Windows, Walastiks," on June 19-July 2 at the ArtistSpace, Ayala Museum. The show features 25 digital photographs that depict healing and purification, brought into focus by images of water and windows, culminating in the attainment of one's God-given greatness (*walastik*, a Filipino slang for "wow"). Call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 31.

### Caballero at Ricco-Renzo

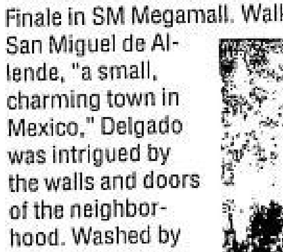
Ricco-Renzo Galleries & Caffe (G/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati) will present "Madrid-Manila" by Cesar Caballero on June 28-July 28. Caballero has always demonstrated a restless and experimental character and from an early age strived to get in contact with other artists. He ended up in Ibiza, Spain, where he met painters with whom he explored different techniques and styles, such as the overloading of industrial resins, the mixture of acids, photography and monotypes. Call 0922-8570911 or 898-2545.

### Digital photo workshop

The Alcove Perspective of the Filipinas Heritage Library is offering another five-weeknight workshop on Digital 101: Photography and the Computer, June 18, 21 and 26 at 6-9 p.m. Call 892-1801, e-mail cruz.ct@ayalafoundation.org or visit www.filipinaslibrary.com.org.

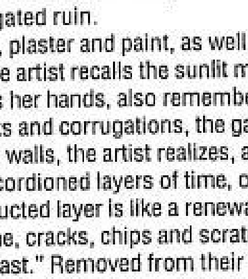
### Oliveria, Delgado at Finale

Unleashing a new set of works titled "Answer in the Form of a Question" at the Finale Art File (4/F LaO Center, Pasay Road cor. Makati Ave., Makati City). Jayson Oliveria once again disrupts the surface of the perfunctory canvas and transforms it into a tectonic minefield where pure visual conceits collide. It is at these unpremeditated junctures of line, color, text and the occasional full-bodied figures where metaphors crouch embryonic, urging the viewer to dispose his tenuous notions of meaning-making and shaking him awake to the stillborn realities multi-layering the contemporary world and art. More process than a finished product, more conflict than resolution, each work interferes with our pursuit of singularity and posits that questions, after all, are best left unanswered. The exhibit is on view until June 20. Call 813-2310 or visit www.finaleartfile.com.



BY JAYSON Oliveria

Meanwhile, Monica Laurel Delgado is featured at Finale in SM Megamall. Walking in the streets of San Miguel de Allende, "a small, charming town in Mexico," Delgado was intrigued by the walls and doors of the neighborhood. Washed by the clarifying light of day and bearing the brunt of inclement weather, they beckoned the artist to inspect them like a page in a book. Flipping the layers of color and fingering the texture with her mind, Delgado discovers the narrative of these surfaces that protect their inhabitants while at the same time accumulating the nuances of history in their slow, unmitigated ruin.



BY MONICA Laurel

Using cement, sand, plaster and paint, as well as grout and stucco, the artist recalls the sunlit memory of San Miguel as her hands, also remembering, intuits the cracks and corrugations, the gaps and swells. How the walls, the artist realizes, are so much like the accordioned layers of time, of how "each reconstructed layer is like a renewal of self, yet through time, cracks, chips and scratches reveal parts of the past." Removed from their context, the "recreated walls" seem to amplify the nature of decay and the imperishable quality of life in abstract terms. "Scratching the Surface" will open on June 21 and can be viewed until July 10. Call 634-2411 or visit www.finaleartfile.com.

# Philippine art masters in children's books

**By Neni Sta. Romana Cruz**
*Contributor*

RECENT SOFT-COVER RELEASES from the Ayala Foundation highlight the life and art of three masters of Philippine art: Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel. Their authors and illustrators are outstanding practitioners of children's literature today.

Luna's temper and metier—dark and brooding—are captured on the cover of "Juan Luna: Patriot and Painter," written by Carla C. Pacis and illustrated by Isabel "Pepper" Roxas.

Pacis takes the time to explain Luna's development in style from *letras y figuras* to the classical-romantic, from portraits and self-portraits to social realism.

The book explains Luna's most famous painting, "Spoliarium," about the chamber beneath the Roman arena where the bodies of gladiators were brought. It was "Luna's most ambitious painting yet," Pacis writes. "Because it was very large, he painted it outside his small apartment and on the street where Roman policemen kept their stables. The noise and the smell of horse manure and sweat did not bother Juan as he painted this great painting."

One is warmed by Luna's patriotism, particularly his friendship with Rizal, for whose "Noli Me Tangere" he did watercolor illustrations, which he signed as "J.B." for "Juan Buwan," for Luna in Spanish means moon.

Luna's story is rich enough even without the disappointing omission of the infamous shooting incident in his Paris home. One wonders why over a hundred years later his life has to be sanitized.

The book has distracting footnotes that invite readers to do art projects in the course of the narration.

How can one not help but smile at the witty title of Amorsolo's biography—"The Boy Who Lost a Father and Found the Sun: The Life of Maestro Fernando Amorsolo"? This is not a mere clever play of words, for when his father died when he was 11, Amorsolo stopped drawing. He felt there was no one to whom he could show his work. "Who would smile at him? Who would tell him kind words? Who would hold his small brown hands and assure him that his drawings were good?"

According to the book written by Rene Villanueva and illustrated by Beth Parrocha-Doctolero, the young boy rekindled his interest in drawing when his family stayed with Fabian de la Rosa, his mother's cousin.

"He felt his father's presence as the sun that shone brightly above him. His father was like the brightness from behind the lush *caballero* trees or the light that filtered through clumps of bamboo."

The golden tropical sunshine that no one had successfully captured on canvas before Amorsolo is a recurring motif in Villanueva's biography. There are constant references to the influence of the "benign presence of the sun" in Amorsolo's art which were "bathed in sunlight" or had "sun-drenched scenes."

Villanueva turns lyrical as he describes the pastoral scenes which earned for Amorsolo the epithet, "a painter of the American period."

"Sometimes the sun manifested itself as the shimmering warmth reflected on the surface of the river or the glowing brilliance that flooded wind-swept rice fields," Villanueva writes. "Sometimes it shone against the backs of ordinary men and women at work or huddled in conversation."

The merry mix of vintage photos of the artist, his Liceo de Manila certificate, his early illustrations for children in Camilo Osias' "The Philippine Reader" series, his paintings in full color, and Parrocha-Doctolero's collage art with fabric as the major material is eye-catching.

In "Fernando Zobel: The Man Who Painted Ideas," written by Maria Elena Paterno and illustrated by Marcus Nada, the writer's approach to the story of Zobel takes the form of a school report by a young student, Marco. It begins with an exchange of letters between the teacher and Marco, who is anxious about his assigned subject, Zobel. Since the artist gained renown for his abstraction, he is described as "the man who painted ideas."

The well-selected quotes from Zobel's letters explain much about the man and the artist, someone who had to initially struggle with the double life of being a businessman and an artist. "I don't paint what I see, I paint what I remember seeing." But can't a camera capture all that? His paintings, Zobel wrote, "do record the important gesture, movement, feeling or the quality of light."

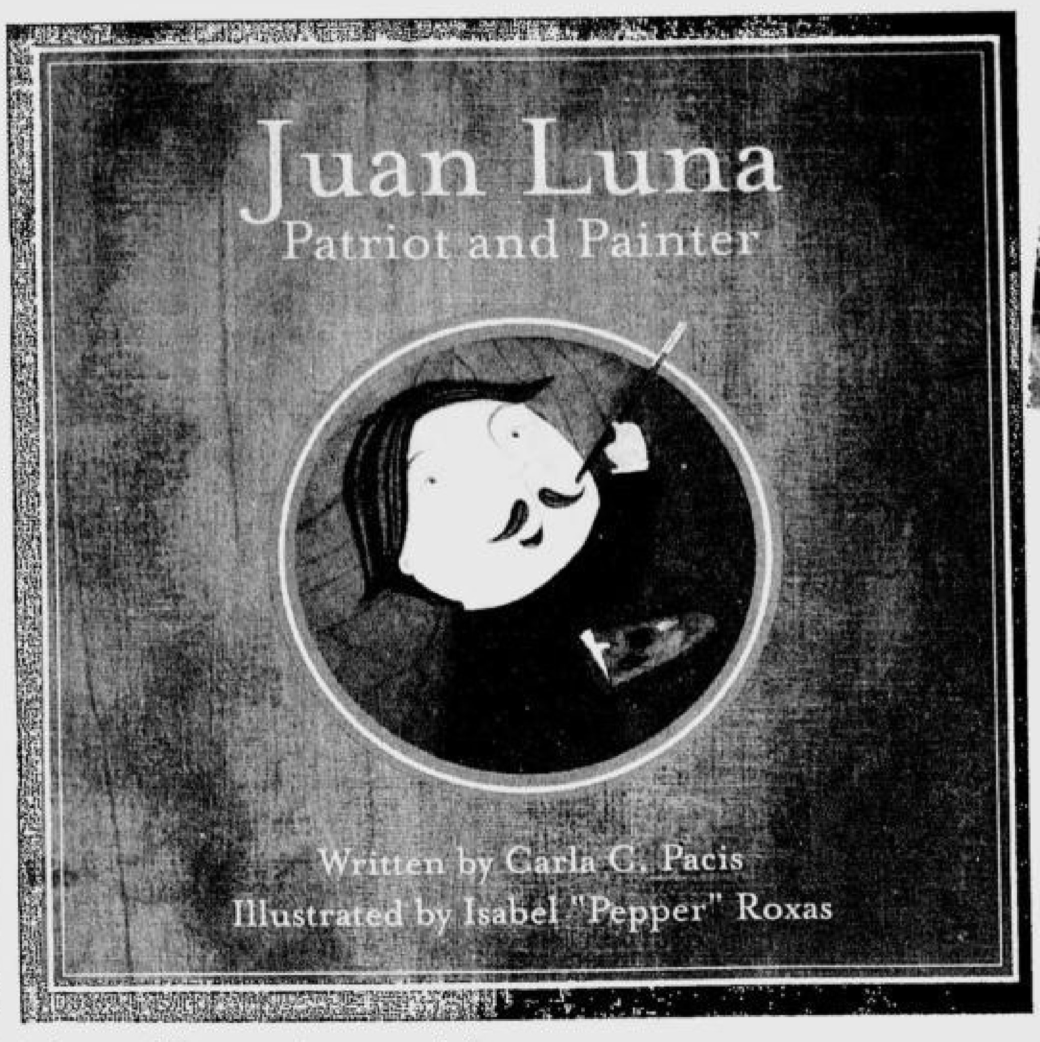
The last page carries a dramatic photo of Zobel taken by Paola Luz. It captures the artist from behind, walking on what appears to be wooden planks of a bridge. It is on the page whose number is the same as his age when he died in 1984—60.

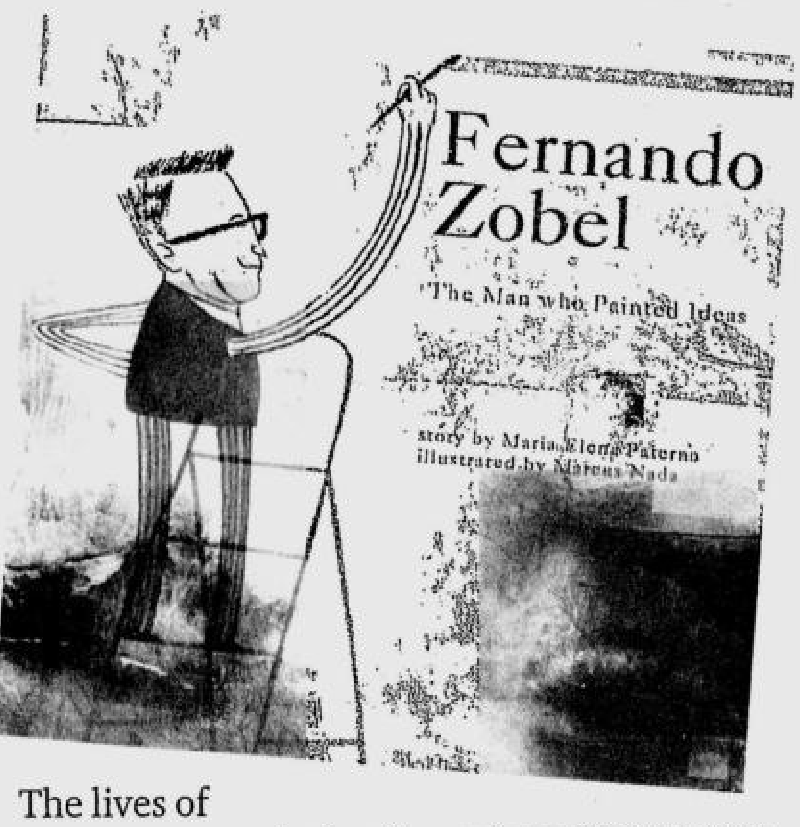
Recommended companion titles to these biographies are the 2004 "Stories in Art" series, featuring four stories based on a painting each by Luna and Amorsolo, and two paintings by Zobel. The Ayala Museum's permanent collection includes significant works by the three artists.

The little-known details in each biography are memorable—Luna as the first Filipino to become famous abroad, Amorsolo having been happy as a young person who drew all day, Zobel having kept his studio so organized that his brushes and paints were always on the same place all the time.

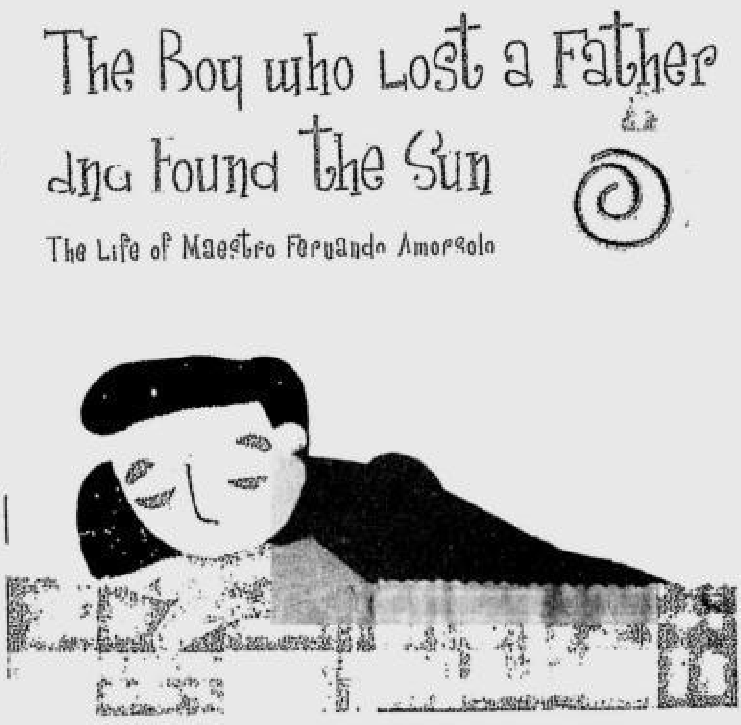
Apart from serving as an irresistible invitation to visit the Ayala Museum to view the original paintings, the well-produced books may lead young readers to be curious and inquisitive about art, culture and history. Truly, a successful book must lead young readers to raise questions and not merely provide them with answers.

*The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People. Email her at nenisrc@gmail.com.*

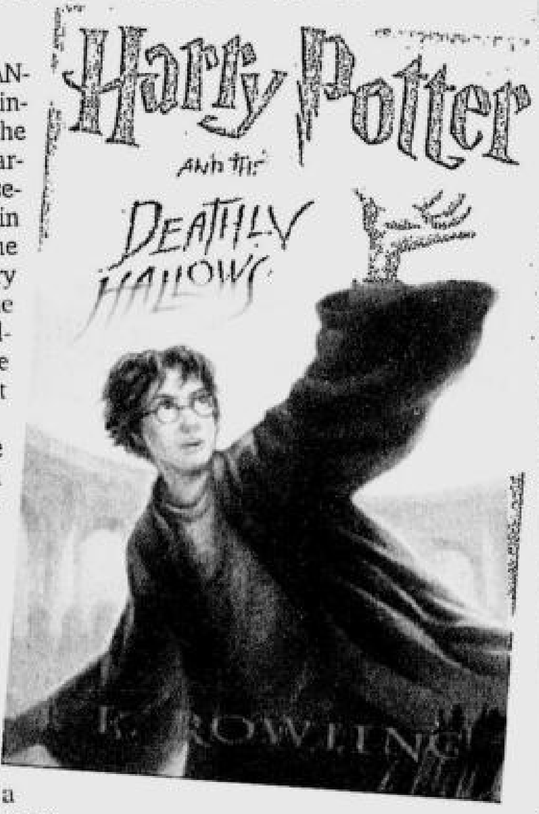

Juan Luna
Patriot and Painter
Written by Carla C. Pacis
Illustrated by Isabel "Pepper" Roxas


Fernando Zobel
The Man who Painted Ideas
story by Maria Elena Paterno
illustrated by Marcus Nada

The lives of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel find eager readers among young Filipinos


The Boy who Lost a Father and Found the Sun
The Life of Maestro Fernando Amorsolo

## 'Harry Potter' book 7 discount


Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
J.K. ROWLING

THE HIGHLY ANticipated last installment of the phenomenal "Harry Potter" book series is coming in July. Be one of the first to get "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Reserve your copy at PowerBooks Specialty Store now and get a 10-percent discount on the total price of the book. Just visit the customer service booth of any PowerBooks branch and fill out a reservation slip and give a P500 down payment.

Aside from the 10-percent discount, Powercard holders get a P50 coupon and Powercard Plus holders get a P100 gift certificate.

Promo runs until July 14.

## Book on 'burgis' lifestyle

MILFLORES PUBLISHING, INC. has recently released "OhMyGosh! The Incredible Lightness of Being Burgis!" by April Timbol Yap.

The book is a collection of short, funny essays written in blog style by a young writer who takes a lighthearted view of various aspects of our *burgis* existence—from malling to our addiction to electronic gadgets and fast food.

The good-natured humor is forged from the wisdom the writer has gained from her life journey thus far. From thwarted dreams of yuppiehood: "... my cherished dream of becoming a yuppie... was all that mattered... my life ambitions were to earn a lot of money, live in a condo, drink vodka and drive a BMW... Of course now I realize that a profession, some sort of job, is actually necessary to earn money to buy things."

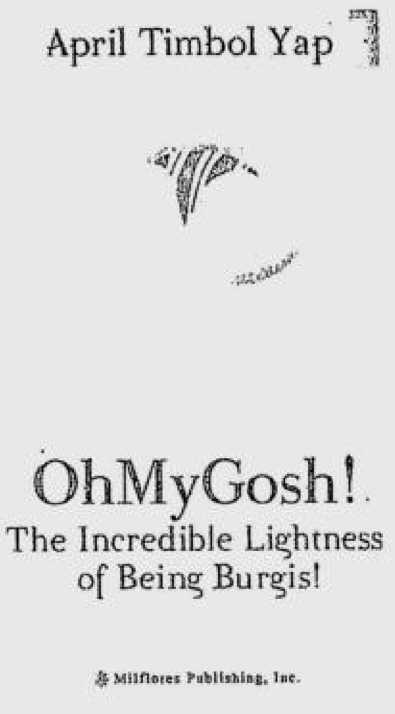
And from the acceptance of her lot as a poorly paid academic: "The other day... hit the classroom for three hours, then by 10 in the morning was back home enjoying tuna on wheat and a doughnut. Wrote a little, read a little—then took a nap, yet another one of life's marvels... (and) I thought: sometimes it just doesn't get any better than this."

The author teaches at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, where she is completing her Ph.D in Creative Writing. She also wrote "Stressed in the City: Snippets of the Lighter Side of the Urban Jungle," published by Milflores.

The unusual cover design and highly stylized illustrations of "OhMyGosh!" are by Bernie Sim of electrolychee.com and the book design is by Zenaida N. Ebalan.

The book is available in National Book Stores, PowerBooks, Books for Less and other major book stores at P195 per copy.

Call 7216431 or e-mail milflores@pldtdsl.net.


April Timbol Yap
OhMyGosh!
The Incredible Lightness of Being Burgis!
Milflores Publishing, Inc.

## Last-minute weekend getaways

SUMMER MAY BE OVER, BUT there's still time to get away on weekends to secret places like Palau's Jellyfish Lake and Currimao's Sitio Remedios, just two places on the June Metro mag's list of "fabulous and spontaneous weekend escapes."

Judy Ann Santos glows on the cover, and talks about life, love and keeping grounded.

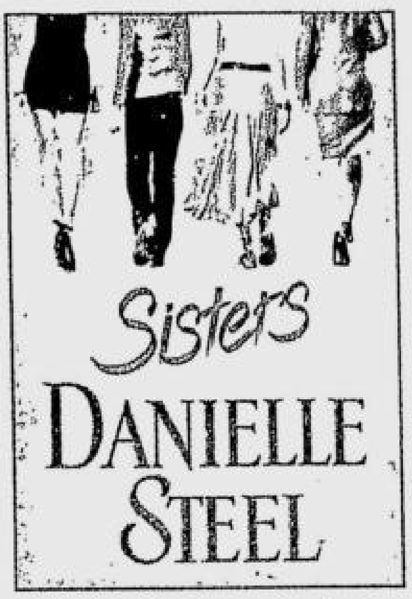
Enduring gay couples who have been together for years share some lessons straight couples could use, while three women talk about ex-boyfriends who turned gay.

Stylish TV personality Daphne Oseña-Paez shows us what's in her closet.

Check out the chic new shapes for wide-leg trousers, and get some beauty tips for still looking good the morning after a wild party.

Metro is available nationwide. Call 4550045 or visit www.metrozines.com

## Book club focuses on Danielle Steel



LONG BEFORE CHICK LIT BECAME THE rage in women's fiction, and before Helen Fielding and Lauren Weisberger became household names, international author Danielle Steel captivated readers the world over with dramatic, richly woven novels full of strong female characters and poignant settings.

With consistent bestsellers and millions of copies in print, Steel continues her record run with two of her latest novels, "Coming Out" and "Sisters," featured this June in PowerBooks' Power Book Club discussions.

A coming-out ball in New York throws a family into chaos in "Coming Out." Olympia Crawford Rubinstein has a thriving legal career and a picture-perfect family and life until an invitation for her twin daughters to attend the most exclusive debutante ball sparks a political debate in the household.

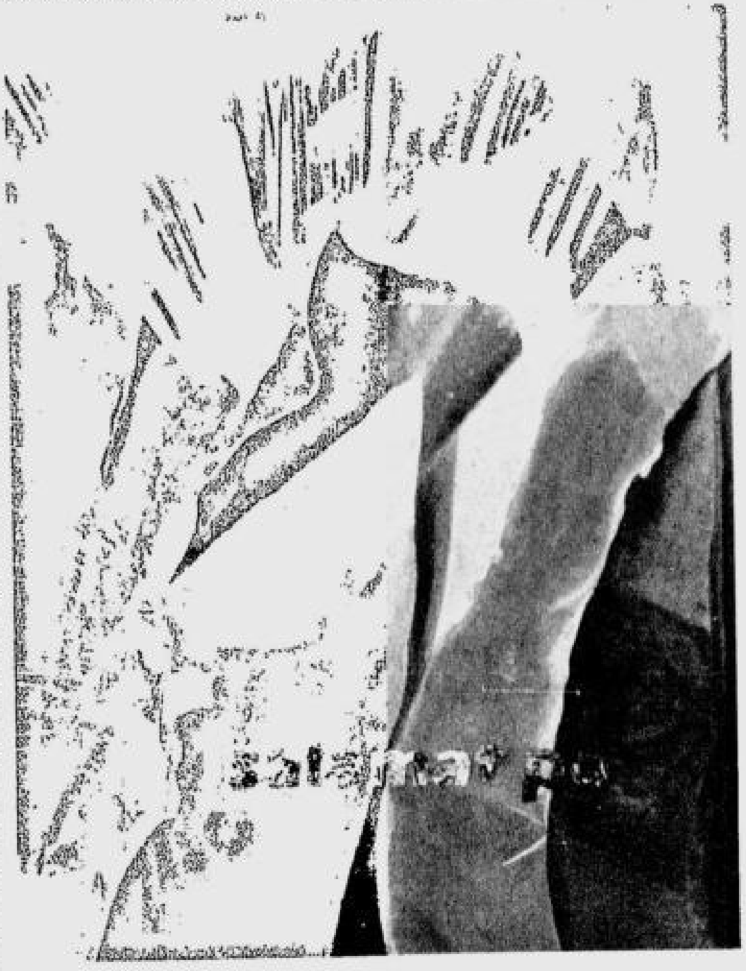
For Olympia's husband whose parents survived the Holocaust, holding and much more attending such social gathering is repugnant.

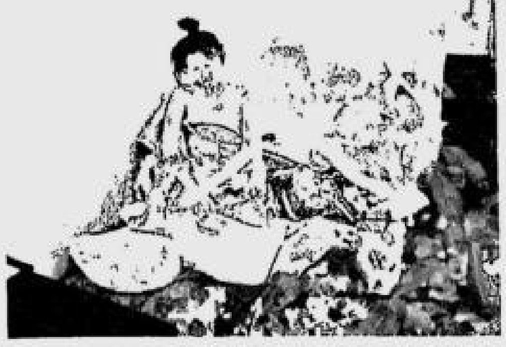
Olympia's twin daughters have contrasting reactions to the invitation. Then there is her snobbish ex-husband who sees the occasion as a perfect time to ignite a family feud. Troubled but unfazed, Olympia is determined to keep her family glued together no matter what.

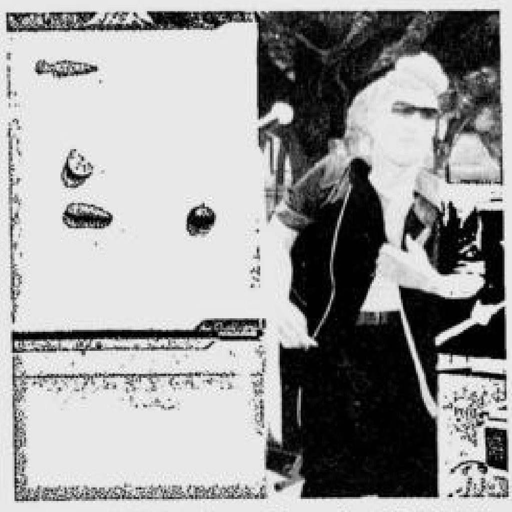
"Sisters" is the compelling story of four sisters busily pursuing their own successes until a stunning tragedy reunites them to share one brownstone and provide the unconditional love only sisters can provide to wounded family members. But as the four women settle in, there is a lingering question as to how they are destined to confront the direction of their respective lives. Will fame over family triumph in the end?

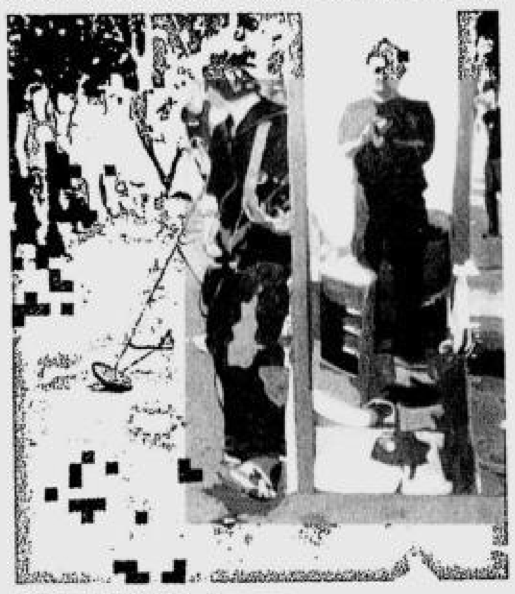
"Coming Out" will be discussed on June 26, 6:30 p.m. at PowerBooks Greenbelt (tel. 7576428 to 29), and "Sisters" on June 27, 6:30 p.m., at PowerBooks SM Megamall (6352898 to 99).

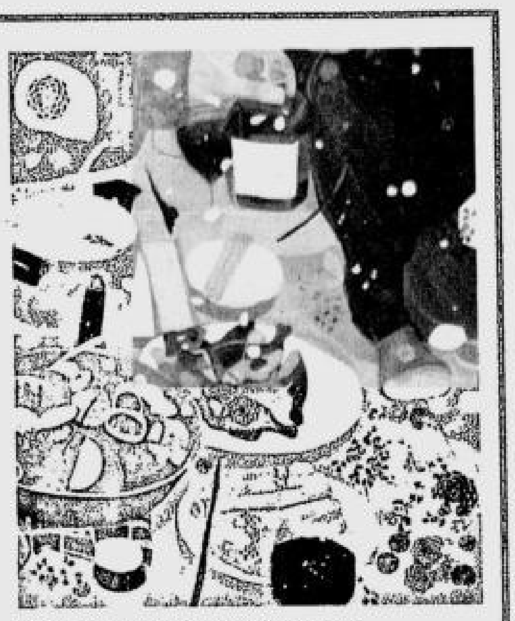
DANIELLE STEEL


"AURA ... Amen," by Jay Ticar


"MORNING Proverb," by Amy Aragon


"ENJOYING Sunday at Yoyogi on My Wall," by Ticar


"ENQUEUE," by Aragon

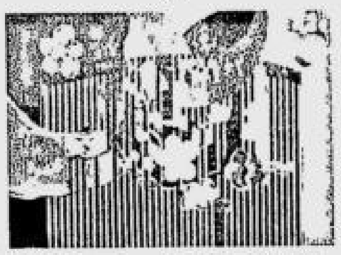

"TANOSHIKATA NE," by Ticar

# *Aragon and Ticar at Hiraya*

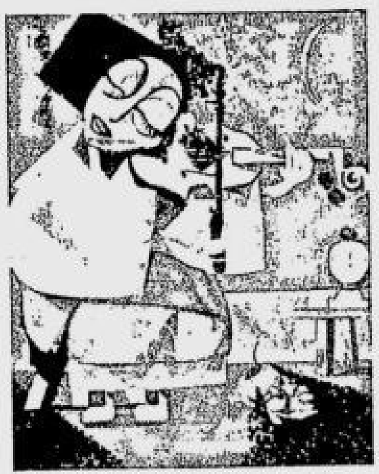
AMY ARAGON AND JAY TICAR WILL HOLD THEIR HOMEcoming exhibit, "Gambatte Kudasai, Ingat Ka" (which means "Do your best" in Japanese and "Take care" in Filipino), in Hiraya Gallery (530 UN Ave., Ermita, Manila), June 21-July 17.

The couple spent three years in Japan where Ticar finished his master's in Fine Arts at Tama Art University on a Japanese government scholarship. The show revolves around their experience in living in Tokyo.

Call 523-3331, e-mail hiraya@info.com.ph or visit www.hiraya.com.


"MY Comb ... My Precious," by Aragon

# Art Trek in Singapore features 'Kababaihan'


"STARLIGHT Performance," by Jovan Benito

ARTISTS VINCENT DE PIO, Jerry Morada, Aileen Lanuza and Jovan Benito are featured in the Philippine Independence Month celebration at Galerie Joaquin Singapore.

The show "Kababaihan (Women)," which runs till June 28, features 14 works and is part of the month-long Art Trek, a project spearheaded by the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore and participated in by eight Singapore galleries.

Of the galleries, Galerie Joaquin Singapore Pte Ltd (the Regent Hotel, 1 Cuscaden Road, Singapore; www.galeriejoaquin.com) is the first in Singapore to exclusively feature artworks from the Philippines.

Mike Magee, gallery director, said: "We are inspired to showcase a collectors' haven where art aficionados can find museum-quality artworks by Filipino artists."

Included in the show are works by guest artists Lydia Velasco and Eufemio Rasco IV.

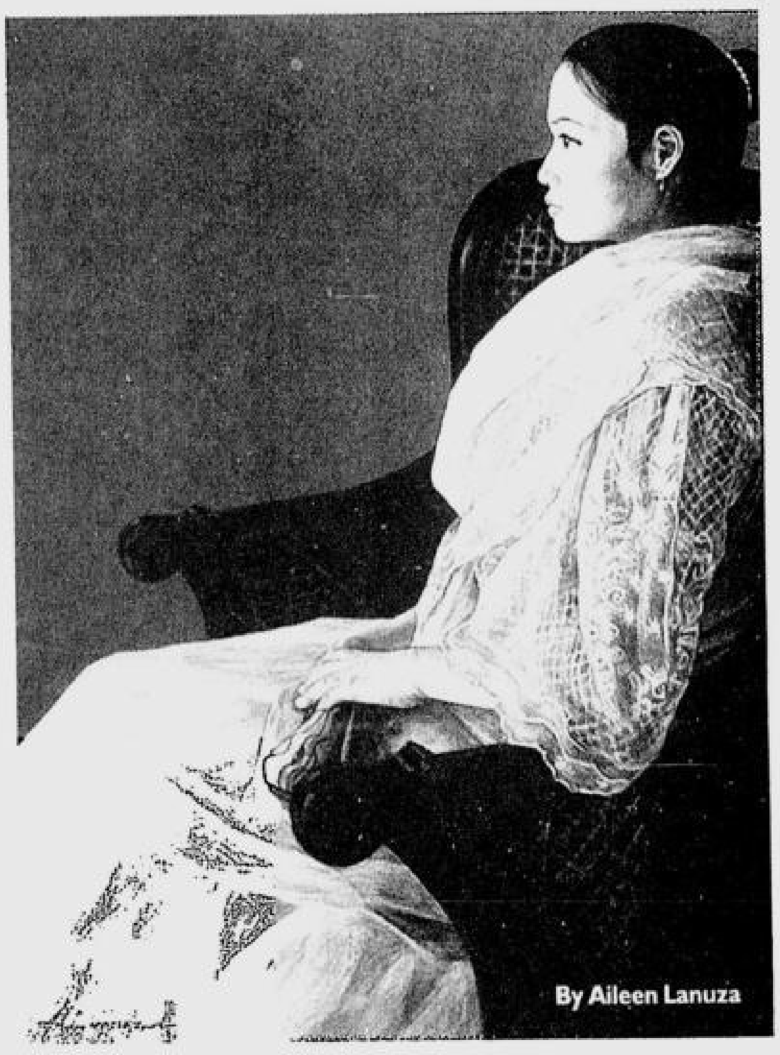
Velasco is a favorite in Sotheby's. Rasco's three-painting entry, "Red, White, Black," in the the last Sotheby's auction raised a final price of $22,000 (P660,000), or three times its original estimate.

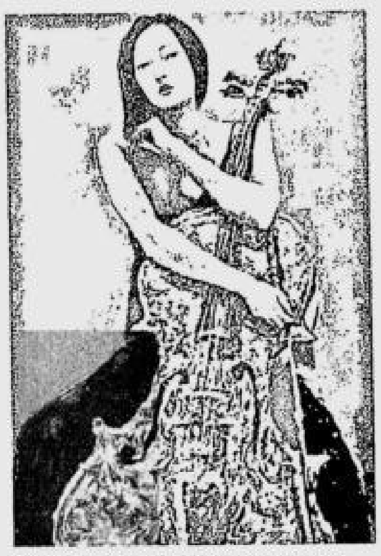
De Pio's works show his keen interest in classical women musicians while Morada's works are technically competent realistic renditions in a surreal setting or composition.

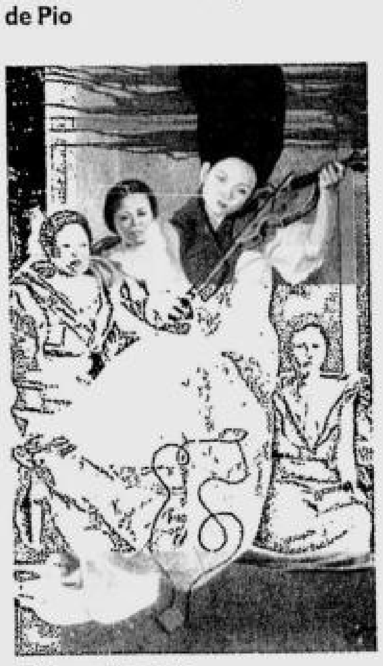
Although both depict women in traditional Filipiniana garb, Lanuza and Benito lend starkly different styles to their subjects. Lanuza opts for dramatic and elegant portraits that reveal the artist's deft hand in playing with light and shadow.

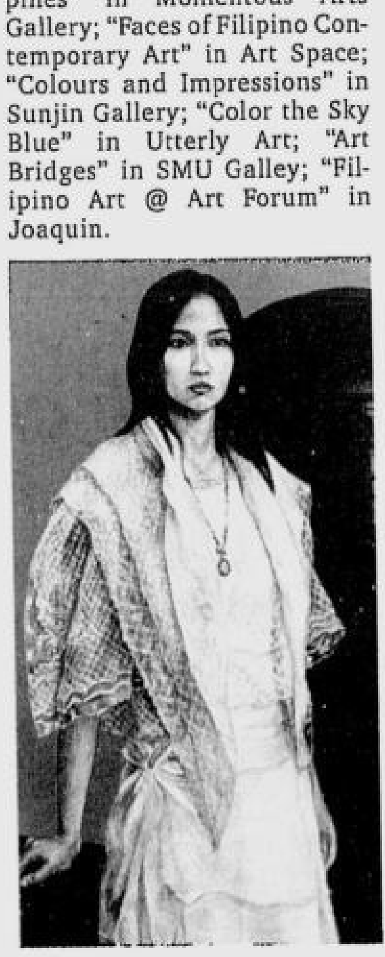
Benito's palette is more festive and colorful, projecting the quirky, ironic and playful side of women.

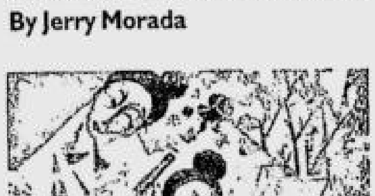
Other shows at Art Trek include a one-man show by Manny Baldemor in ARTrium; "Contemporary Print Philippines" in Momentous Arts Gallery; "Faces of Filipino Contemporary Art" in Art Space; "Colours and Impressions" in Sunjin Gallery; "Color the Sky Blue" in Utterly Art; "Art Bridges" in SMU Galley; "Filipino Art @ Art Forum" in Joaquin.

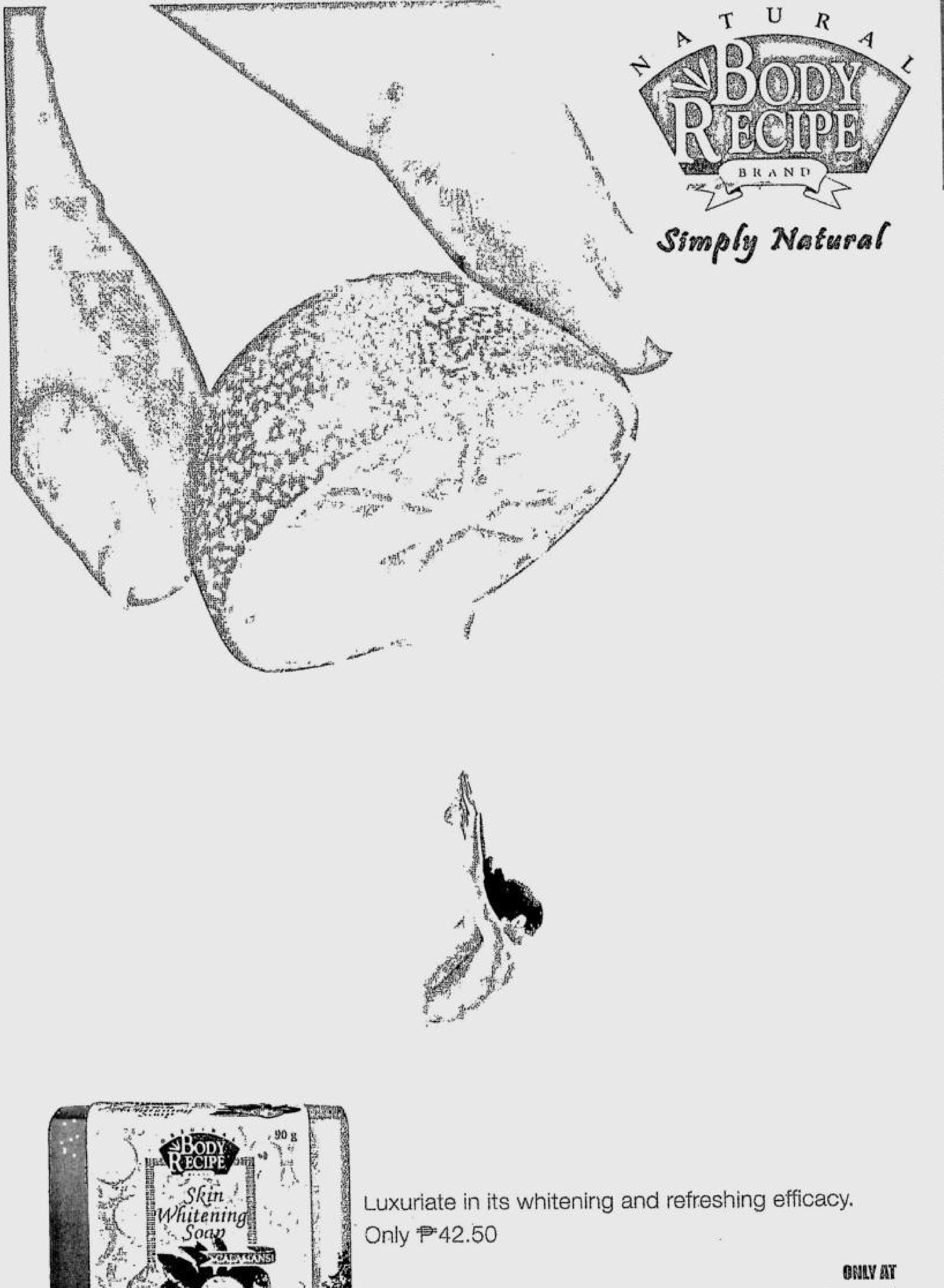

By Aileen Lanuza


"CELLIST at Rest," by Vincent de Pio


By Jerry Morada


By Lanuza


"STRING Duet," by Benito



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INSIDE

■ **3 shows that rocked the metro** Reviews/E6

■ **Reader scolds Piolo, Regine** Feedback/E3

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# Ambassador of film

## Scriptwriter-director Joey Reyes represents RP in 'On the Lot' campaign

**By Bayani San Diego Jr.**

DIREK Joey, during the Star World interview: "We should have a similar show."

AS PART OF ITS PROmotional campaign for the new Steven Spielberg-Mark Burnett reality show "On the Lot," Star World has chosen five filmmakers from the Southeast Asian region as ambassadors of film.

Representing the Philippines is scriptwriter-director Jose Javier Reyes—"Direk Joey" in show biz circles.

Direk Joey told INQUIRER Entertainment: "I am so flattered to endorse a reality show that tackles a subject close to my heart: filmmaking. I'm still asking myself, 'Why me?'"

According to Adel Chik, local marketing manager of Star World, Direk Joey met all of the international network's criteria. "Star World was looking for an established filmmaker with an impressive body of work. Direk Joey is critically acclaimed and commercially successful as writer-producer-director."

Chik recalled sending copies of two of Direk Joey's films—"Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" and "Kung Ako na Lang Sana"—to the network's Hong Kong office.

Reyes made light of his selection, thus: "Maybe they chose me because I have the best complexion [among Filipino filmmakers]!"

Chik explained that the campaign aims to "contrast the Asian filmmaking experience with that of Hollywood." She related that, apart from Direk Joey, filmmakers from four other SEA countries were picked: Pratya Pinkaew from Thailand; Royston Tan, Singapore; Pang Ho-cheung or Edmond Pang, Hong Kong; and Afdlin Shauki, Malaysia.

Reyes was interviewed by the Star World staff and 30- and 60-second excerpts will be aired starting Wednesday throughout the region on Star Movies and other Star channels.

The ambassadors' profiles, photos

AMBASSADOR / E2

**THE SWEETER KISS**
Ellen DeGeneres kisses her two 34th Annual Daytime Emmy trophies (for Oustanding Talk Show and Outstanding Talk Show host), top L, and then her partner, actress Portia di Rossi, L, in Hollywood on Friday. REUTERS

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# Genuine Italian masterpieces

**By Constantino C. Tejero**

OF THE FILM FESTIVALS MOUNTED by foreign embassies in the country, probably the most substantial is the Italian film fest. While the others show mostly contemporary films, which too often have just come out on bootleg DVDs and are thus unable to draw enough theatergoers, the Italians are showcasing their masterworks, that is, the classics.

And it is the most unique, too, as it is held the whole year round at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, screening one film every second or third Tuesday of the month from January to December.

This year, the film fest has "Women of the Italian Cinema" as theme and features three of the world's most celebrated actresses: Sophia Loren, Anna Magnani and Giulietta Masina.

Of the 12 films being showcased, seven are classics, about three of them genuine masterpieces.

Only Roberto Faenza's "The Days of the Abandoned," Cristina Comencini's "Don't Tell" (June 19), Roberto Benigni's "The Tiger and the Snow" (July 10), Silvio Soldini's "Bread and Tulips" (Sept. 11) and Gabriele Muccino's "Remember Me, My Love" (Nov. 13) are contemporary stuff. They're not bad, but then they've been going the round of stalls of pirated DVDs since last year.

With the classics, though you have already seen them on DVD, you still want to see them on the wide screen as every frame matters, every nuance of angle and lighting better captured and appreciated in bigger space.

Early this year, three of Vittorio de Sica's films were screened: "Two Women," "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" and "Marriage Italian-Style."

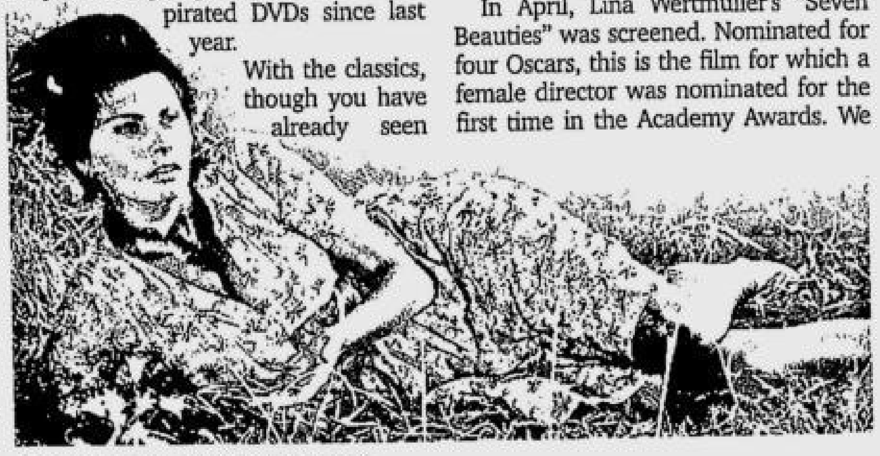
In April, Lina Wertmuller's "Seven Beauties" was screened. Nominated for four Oscars, this is the film for which a female director was nominated for the first time in the Academy Awards. We consider this Wertmuller's finest.

Look forward to "Don't Tell" if you go for a drama of twisted souls, and "The Tiger and the Snow" if you have a taste for Benigni's kind of comedy.

And don't miss Pier Paolo Pasolini's "Mama Roma" on Aug. 14. Banned for obscenity upon its release in the mid-'60s, it is now considered a classic featuring a powerhouse performance by Magnani, one of cinema's greatest actresses.

Don't miss the original "Swept Away" on Oct. 9, Wertmuller's controversial film on sexual politics. It is still bristling after all these years, still inflammatory. See why we consider the Madonna remake execrable.

Most of all, adjust your schedule for the day to catch the screening of Federico Fellini's "Juliet of the Spirits" on Dec. 11. This exploration of female psychology, the companion piece of "8½" and the maestro's first color film, is considered by some to be his finest. Now, if that's not one reason to fight tooth and nail to get a seat...



SOPHIA Loren in "Two Women"

# Ambassador of film

From page E1

and interviews will be posted on the show's web site. The directors were also asked to review two "On the Lot" episodes for the site.

Among the questions asked by the Star World crew concerned Reyes' filmmaking principles.

He recounted: "I was asked what's the biggest danger for a filmmaker these days. I said it was to be an egomaniac—because a filmmaker has a big responsibility to his audience."

Good filmmaking is not just about technique, Reyes pointed out. "You must have a story to tell."

He noted that "On the Lot" is akin to "an on-air film school that presents real challenges to aspiring filmmakers."

He explained: "It goes beyond theories and techniques. This talent search deals with the reality of filmmaking: the pressures, the problems."

It teaches filmmakers how to deal with studio heads, for example. Reyes added, "It gives tips on how to make your film, without compromising your principles and becoming a prostitute."

How he wished a local network could come up with a similar concept, he said. "This is one way to utilize digital technology. This kind of show could silence those directors with a Messianic complex. They need to realize that they should save themselves first before they could save an entire industry."

A reality show on filmmaking is "far more interesting than the escalating garbage on 'Pinoy Big Brother'" Reyes insisted. "I prefer 'Pinoy Dream Academy' (of which he was one of the mentors) because it imparted lessons to viewers. As a franchise, 'PBB' is a Pavlovian experiment and the local version is a talent search crossed with a charity show."

But that's another story.

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
6 GOLD (SDDS) FANTASTIC FOUR
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 SILIP

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR

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1 (DOLBY EX) SILIP
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DTS EX) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

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1 SILIP
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

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1 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
2 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 (DOLBY) OCEAN'S THIRTEEN

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
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1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN / OCEAN'S -13
2 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR
4

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 (DOLBY) FANTASTIC FOUR

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown**
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1 SILIP
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 (DOLBY) WHISPER
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
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1 28 WEEKS LATER / LUCKY YOU
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
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1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR

**Lianas Cinema**
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1 PIREATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) SILIP
2 LUPE
3 NAGAAPOY NA DAGAT
4 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 AKIN KA NGAYON GABI
3 (DTS) FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-3

**Fiesta World Mall**
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1 SILIP
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

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2 THE FRUIT IS SWEELING

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | FANTASTIC 4 | 12:20, 2:40, 5:00<br>7:20, 9:40 | G |
| 2 | FANTASTIC 4 | 12:50, 3:10, 5:30<br>7:50, 10:10 | R-13 |
| 3 | FANTASTIC 4 | 1:20, 3:40, 6:00<br>8:20, 10:50 | G |
| 4 | OCEAN'S THIRTEEN | 12:10, 2:45, 5:35<br>8:25, 11:05 | PG-13 |

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|---|---|---|
| FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER G<br>2:30,4:40,6:50,9:00 | FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER G<br>1:20,3:30,5:40,7:50,10:00 | OCEAN'S THIRTEEN PG13<br>12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30 |
| FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER G<br>12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20,9:30 | MEET THE ROBINSONS - G<br>12:15,2:30,4:45<br>PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 3 – G<br>7:00,10:20 | FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER G<br>1:50,4:00,6:10,8:20 |

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

**SHANG CINEPLEX**

① FANTASTIC FOUR - RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP)
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

② FANTASTIC FOUR - RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP)
1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30

③ FANTASTIC FOUR - RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (GP)
12.30, 2.45, 5.00, 7:15, 9:30

④ OCEAN'S 13
MTRCB PG-13
1:35, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
FANTASTIC FOUR RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
12:00 2:15 4:30

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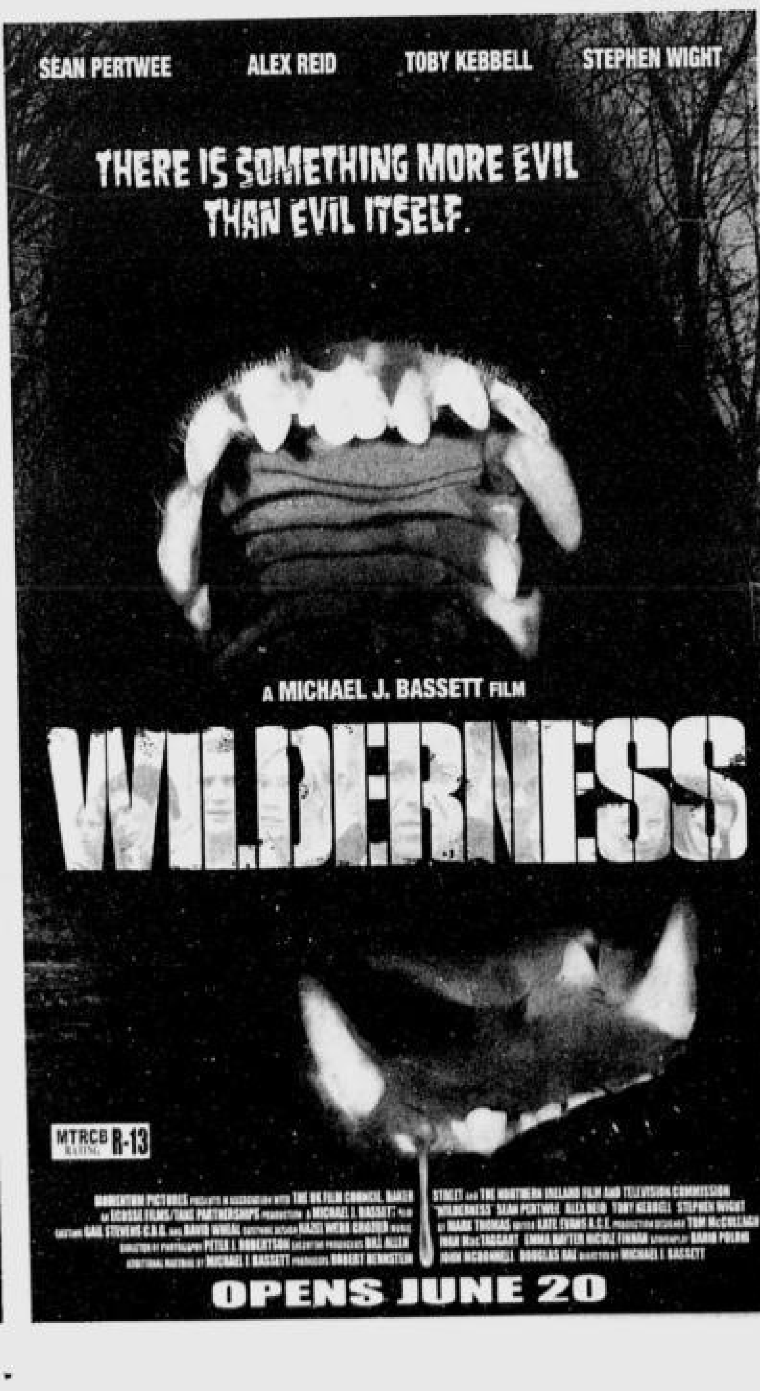

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| | MR BEAN'S HOLIDAY<br>1:50 / 3:50 / 5:50 / 7:50 / 9:50 | OCEAN'S 13<br>1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50 | |
| | DOLBY DIGITAL-EX | PAANO KITA IIBIGIN<br>12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50 | FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER<br>11:40 / 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00 |

ALIMALL 5

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | FANTASTIC 4: SILVER SURFER<br>12:50 / 3:10 / 5:30 / 8:10 | 2 | BORDERTOWN<br>12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40 | 3 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 3<br>12:10 R6 / 1:50 / 5:10 / 8:30 |
| 4 | SILIP<br>12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30 | 5 | PAANO KITA IIBIGIN<br>12:15 R5 / 1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35 | | DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS |

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FEEDBACK

## Know your scriptwriters

**From Melinda R. Mendez, Pasig City:**

I watched "Sharon" on May 27, when Regine Velasquez and Piolo Pascual were promoting their movie "Paano Kita Iibigin." At one point, Sharon Cuneta, who had not seen the film, gave it a thumbs-up just because it was a Star Cinema production.

She asked Piolo and Regine who wrote the screenplay. That's when the problem started.

The camera caught the two guests' dazed reaction to the question. Piolo seemed to suddenly realize that he he had just finished filming a movie whose script had actually been written by real people. His eyes looked like they were ready to pop out of their sockets out of sheer horror.

### Who wrote it

Both stars looked beyond the camera scrambling for an answer. Finally, they mouthed two names, but it seemed as if that was the first time they heard of those people. Terrible!

This faux pas was made worse by the fact that Sharon, a seasoned pro who knows full well the power of a great script, reminded her guests—and viewers—that writers should always be acknowledged for their work.

What I find more amusing and disheartening now is the fact that three people, not two, actually wrote "Paano Kita Iibigin"—something I discovered after seeing the movie poster.

I have been a teacher of literature for almost two decades. A novel, a play, a script is better understood and appreciated when one knows the genius behind it. Actors should know more than just their co-actors, producers or directors. After all, the written word—the story and the screenplay—is the basic ingredient of a film or show. Without it, actors will have nothing to act out...there wouldn't be a movie!

### Moving dialogue

[If] actors can remember their managers, make-up artists, stylists and plastic surgeons, they [should also] pay attention to the people who give them memorable dialogues that often make them famous.

Frankly, it had been a while since I last heard arresting and emotionally moving dialogue as some lines in "Paano." Even my teenage son who doesn't like Tagalog movies, was willing to watch the movie after watching its trailer.

Piolo, Regine, your writers for that movies are Mel del Rosario, John Paul Abellera and Vanessa Valdez. Please acknowledge them next chance you get.

---

## ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

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1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
12:30 3:40 6:50 10.00

4 OCEAN'S 13
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

5 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30

7 MEET the ROBINSONS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 indieSine: BIG TIME
1:30 3:45 6:00 8:15

9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 BORDERTOWN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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2 MEET the ROBINSONS 12:30 2:50
BORDERTOWN 5:10 7:30 10:00

3 OCEAN'S 13
11:25 2:05 4:45 7:25 10:00

4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:30 8:40

6 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20

7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15

3 FANTASTIC FOUR
11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:20

4 OCEAN'S 13
1:05 3:35 6:10 9:00

5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

6 BORDERTOWN 11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
FANTASTIC FOUR 4:00 6:00 8:00

7 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30

8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00

### NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 OCEAN' 13
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 MEET the ROBINSONS

### PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

2 FANTASTIC FOUR
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00

3 OCEAN'S 13
12:25 3:10 5:55 8:40

4 MEET the ROBINSONS
12:10 2:25 4:40 7:05 8:55

### STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

### LIPA

Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3864 (043) 312-5870

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 WHISPER
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
5 28 WEEKS LATER

### DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 ZODIAC
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

### ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

### IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ZODIAC
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 SILIP
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

### STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 OCEAN'S 13
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

### BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 RESERVE
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 OCEAN'S 13

### ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WHISPER
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 MEET the ROBINSONS / MR. BEAN
6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

---

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IMAX

SPIDER-MAN 3 8:00PM
Admission Prices: P 350

T-REX 1:00PM 4:30PM
Admission Prices: P 200

ANT BULLY 2:30PM 6:00PM
Admission Prices: P 250

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 BLACKOUT/ SHREK 3

PREMIERE CINEMA
PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

CENTERSTAGE
FANTASTIC FOUR

THE PODIUM

CINEMA 1
FANTASTIC FOUR

CINEMA 2
FANTASTIC FOUR

633-8976

**SM NORTH EDSA** 929-5452

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 BORDERTOWN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
9 BLACKOUT
10 SILIP
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM MEGACINEMA** 633-1901

1 SHREK 3
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 BLACKOUT
8 BORDERTOWN
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
12 SILIP

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW** 935-0749

1 BLACKOUT
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 BORDERTOWN
9 SILIP
10 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
11 SHREK 3
12 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM CITY STA. MESA** 716-1416

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SILIP
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
8 BORDERTOWN
9 BLACKOUT
10 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

**SM CITY SAN LAZARO** 786-2488

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 BLACKOUT
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

**SM SOUTHMALL** 806-6888

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 SILIP
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 BLACKOUT
6 OCEAN'S 13
7 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
9 BORDERTOWN

**SM CITY BICUTAN** 776-3055

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM CITY MANILA** 523-9240

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 SILIP
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 BLACKOUT
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 BORDERTOWN
10 SHREK 3
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

**SM CITY DASMARINAS** (046)4323201-04

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 SILIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM VALENZUELA** 293-3917

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

**SM CITY SUCAT** 829-4975

1 BLACKOUT
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

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MTRCB Rating ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

### LUZON

**SM CITY BACOOR** (046)417-3868

1 BORDERTOWN
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 SILIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

**SM CITY CLARK** (045)625-5844-45

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 OCEAN'S 13

**SM CITY MARILAO** (044)9332013-17

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM CITY BATANGAS** 885-6401-04

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

**SM CITY PAMPANGA** (045)0637681-85

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
6 SILIP

**SM CIY LIPA** (043) 784-0187

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WHISPER

**SM CITY LUCENA** (042)7108977-80

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

**SM CITY BAGUIO** (074)6197838-39

1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO** (046)474-3160

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 BORDERTOWN
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

**SM CITY STA. ROSA** (049)5349811

1 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
2 BLACKOUT
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

### VISAYAS MINDANAO

**SM CITY DAVAO** (082)2976998

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
4 SHREK 3
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM CITY CAGAYAN** (088)859-2884

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

**SM CITY ILOILO** (033)3209422

1 WHISPER
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3
5 OCEAN'S 13
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 RESERVED
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN

**SM CITY CEBU** (032)231-3876

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 LUCKY YOU
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN
7 OCEAN'S 13
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN 3

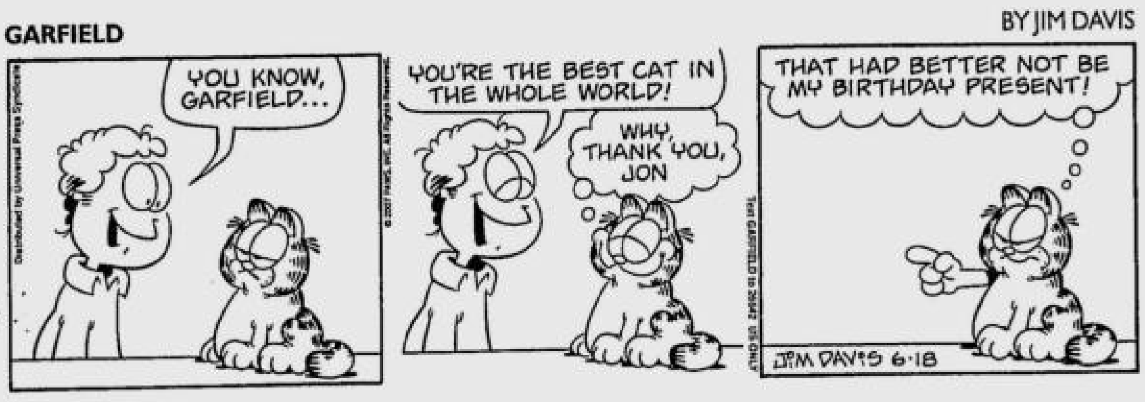
**SM CITY BACOLOD** (034) 708 1010

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
4 OCEAN'S 13

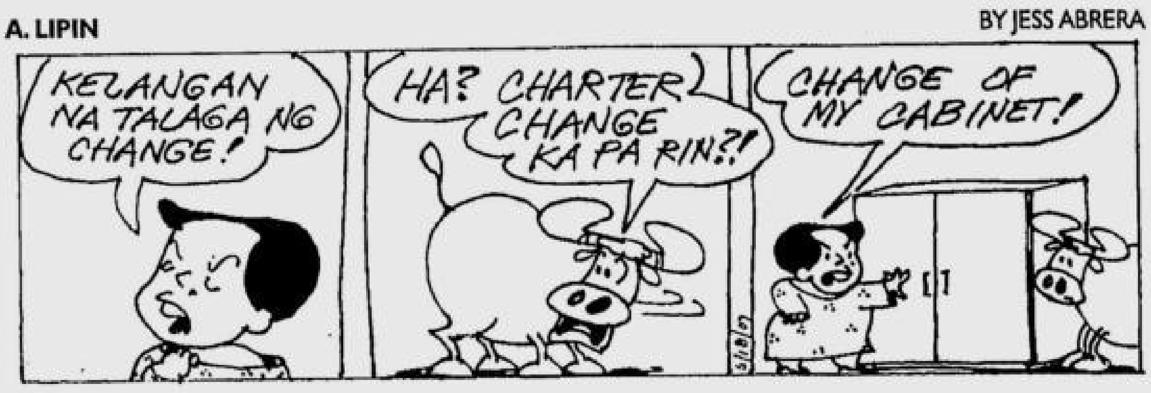
SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

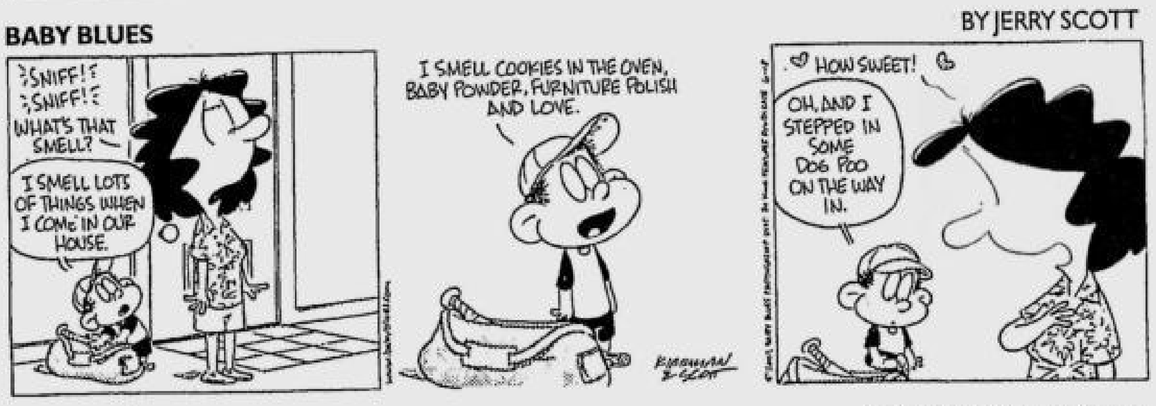
**GARFIELD** BY JIM DAVIS


YOU KNOW, GARFIELD...
YOU'RE THE BEST CAT IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
WHY, THANK YOU, JON
THAT HAD BETTER NOT BE MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
JIM DAVIS 6-18

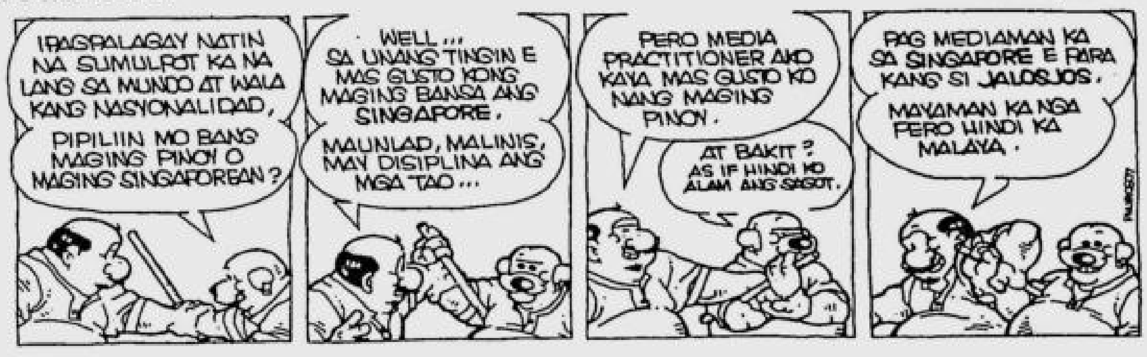
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN NA TALAGA NG CHANGE!
HA? CHARTER CHANGE KA PA RIN?!
CHANGE OF MY CABINET!

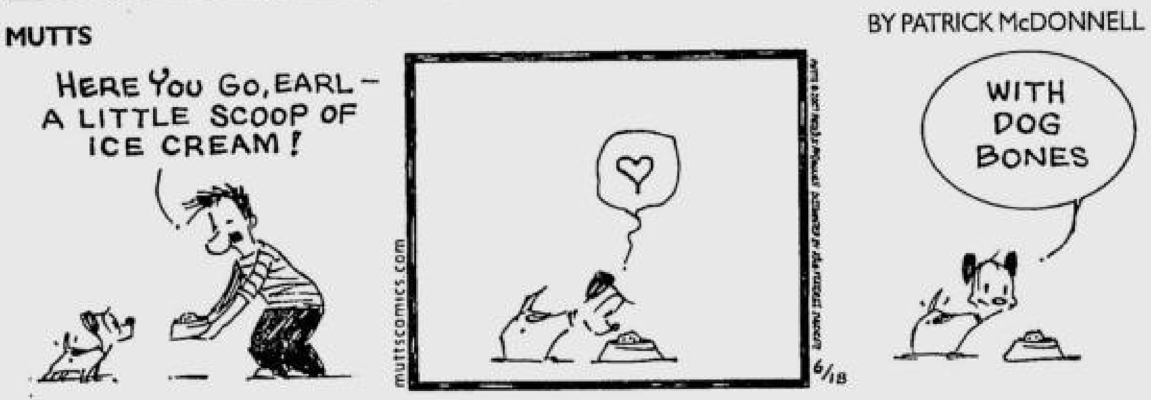
**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


SNIFF! SNIFF!
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
I SMELL LOTS OF THINGS WHEN I COME IN OUR HOUSE.
I SMELL COOKIES IN THE OVEN, BABY POWDER, FURNITURE POLISH AND LOVE.
HOW SWEET!
OH, AND I STEPPED IN SOME DOG POO ON THE WAY IN.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

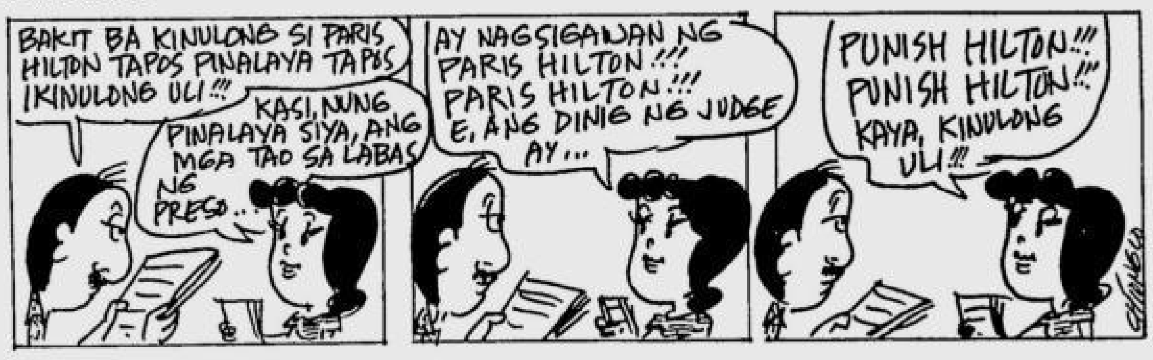
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


IPAGPALAGAY NATIN NA SUMULPOT KA NA LANG SA MUNDO AT WALA KANG NASYONALIDAD,
PIPILIIN MO BANG MAGING PINOY O MAGING SINGAPOREAN?
WELL... SA UNANG TINGIN E MAS GUSTO KONG MAGING BANSA ANG SINGAPORE.
MAUNLAD, MALINIS, MAY DISIPLINA ANG MGA TAO...
PERO MEDIA PRACTITIONER AKO KAYA MAS GUSTO KO NANG MAGING PINOY.
AT BAKIT? AS IF HINDI KO ALAM ANG SAGOT.
PAG MEDIAMAN KA SA SINGAPORE E PARA KANG SI JALOSJOS.
MAYAMAN KA NGA PERO HINDI KA MALAYA.

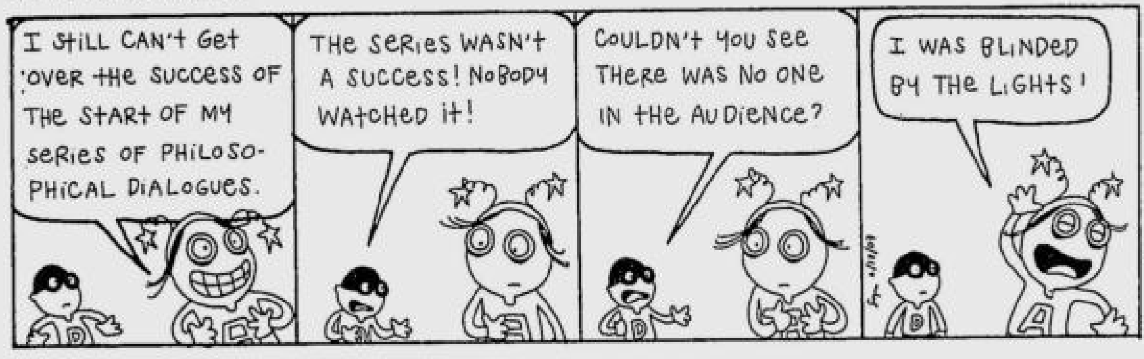
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HERE YOU GO, EARL – A LITTLE SCOOP OF ICE CREAM!
mutts comics.com
WITH DOG BONES
6/18

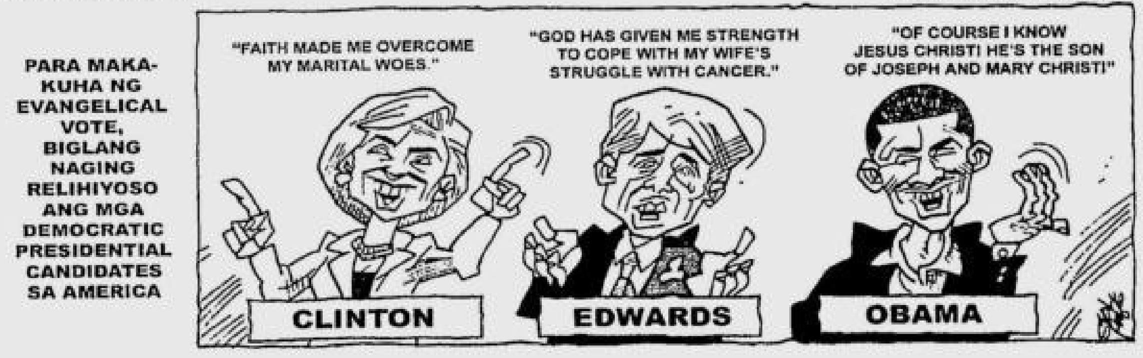
**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKIT BA KINULONG SI PARIS HILTON TAPOS PINALAYA TAPOS IKINULONG ULI!!!
KASI, NUNG PINALAYA SIYA, ANG MGA TAO SA LABAS NG PRESO...
AY NAGSIGAWAN NG PARIS HILTON!!! PARIS HILTON!!! E, ANG DINIG NG JUDGE AY...
PUNISH HILTON!!! PUNISH HILTON!!! KAYA, KINULONG ULI!!!
CHIONGLO

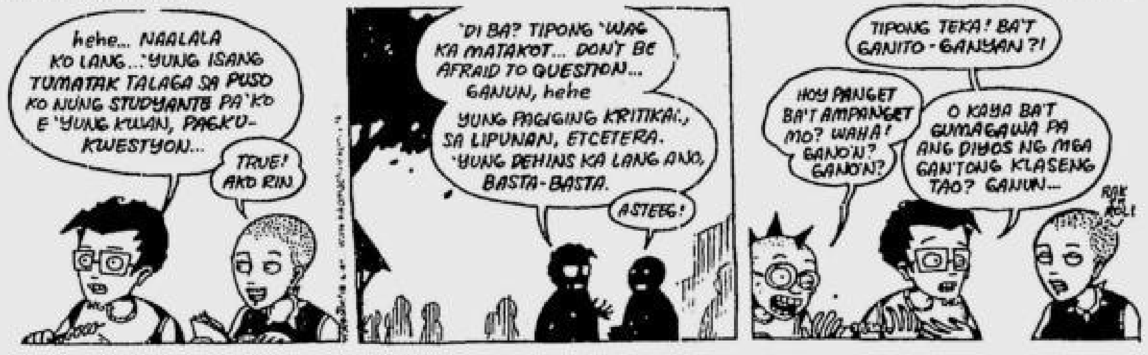
**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I STILL CAN'T GET OVER THE SUCCESS OF THE START OF MY SERIES OF PHILOSOPHICAL DIALOGUES.
THE SERIES WASN'T A SUCCESS! NOBODY WATCHED IT!
COULDN'T YOU SEE THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE AUDIENCE?
I WAS BLINDED BY THE LIGHTS!

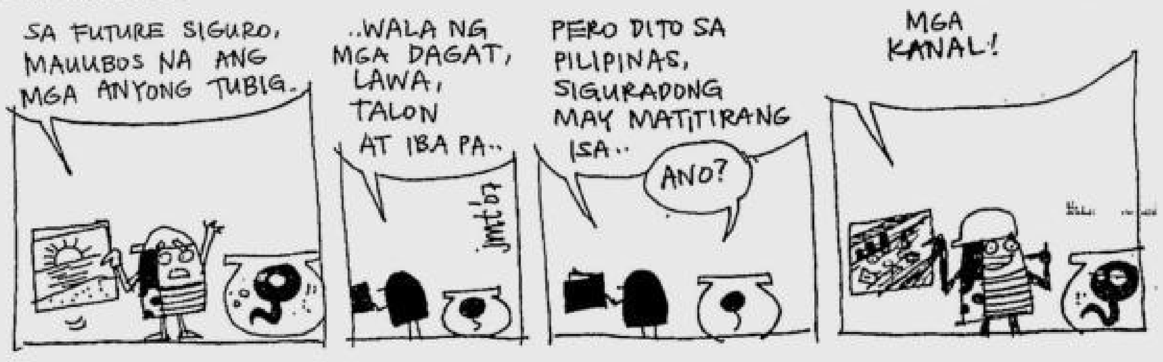
**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PARA MAKA-KUHA NG EVANGELICAL VOTE, BIGLANG NAGING RELIHIYOSO ANG MGA DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SA AMERICA
"FAITH MADE ME OVERCOME MY MARITAL WOES."
"GOD HAS GIVEN ME STRENGTH TO COPE WITH MY WIFE'S STRUGGLE WITH CANCER."
"OF COURSE I KNOW JESUS CHRIST! HE'S THE SON OF JOSEPH AND MARY CHRIST!"
CLINTON
EDWARDS
OBAMA

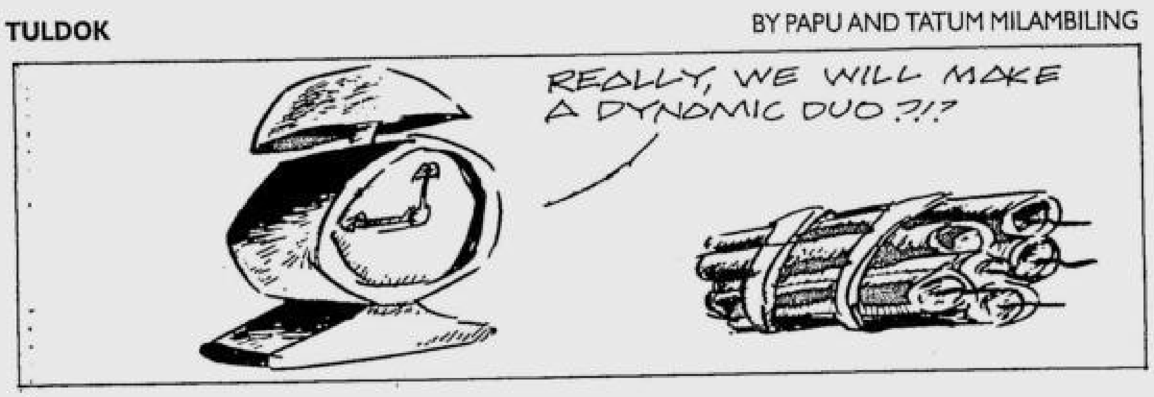
**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA


hehe... NAALALA KO LANG...'YUNG ISANG TUMATAK TALAGA SA PUSO KO NUNG STUDYANTE PA'KO E 'YUNG KWAN, PAGKU-KWESTYON...
TRUE! AKO RIN.
'DI BA? TIPONG 'WAG KA MATAKOT... DON'T BE AFRAID TO QUESTION... GANUN, hehe
YUNG PAGIGING KRITIKAL, SA LIPUNAN, ETCETERA. 'YUNG DEHINS KA LANG ANO, BASTA-BASTA.
ASTEEG!
TIPONG TEKA! BA'T GANITO-GANYAN?!
HOY PANGET BA'T AMPANGET MO? WAHA! GANO'N? GANO'N?
O KAYA BA'T GUMAGAWA PA ANG DIYOS NG MGA GAN'TONG KLASENG TAO? GANUN...
RAK EN ROL!

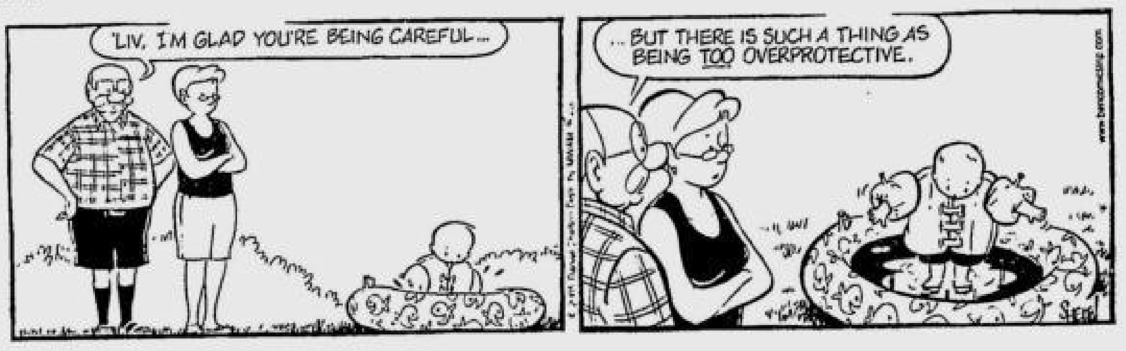
**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA FUTURE SIGURO, MAUUBOS NA ANG MGA ANYONG TUBIG.
..WALA NG MGA DAGAT, LAWA, TALON AT IBA PA..
jmt'07
PERO DITO SA PILIPINAS, SIGURADONG MAY MATITIRANG ISA..
ANO?
MGA KANAL!

**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


REALLY, WE WILL MAKE A DYNOMIC DUO ?!?

**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


'LIV, I'M GLAD YOU'RE BEING CAREFUL...
...BUT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO OVERPROTECTIVE.
www.bencomicstrip.com

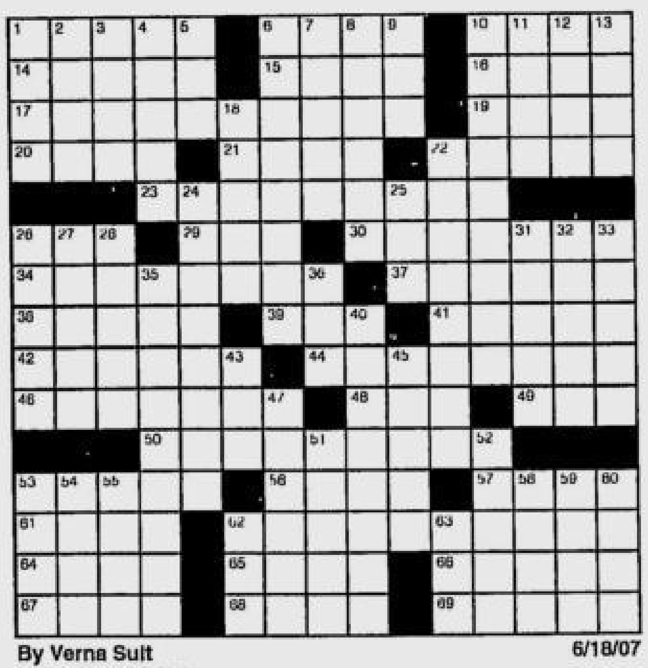
## DAILY CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 False faces
6 Price
10 Jam-pack
14 Heep of Dickens
15 Some Spanish
16 Kentucky neighbor
17 Pop
19 Some wines
20 Dog's bane
21 Heaps
22 Trapshooting
23 Proposes
26 Pops
29 Victory sign
30 Set sail
34 Starbucks offering
37 Index-of-Forbidden-Books pope
38 Take an oath
39 General on Chinese menus
41 Mean-spirited
42 Vigil light
44 Not invited
46 Kentucky neighbor
48 Pea package
49 Hesitant syllables
50 Tollbooth channels
53 Marina poles
56 Saxman Stan
57 "__ kleine Nachtmusik"
61 Diamond Head's island
62 Pop
64 Scientologist Hubbard
65 Brand for Fido
66 __ d'Or (Cannes award)
67 Fencing sword
68 Part of NASA
69 Look scornfully

**DOWN**

1 Bungle
2 Seed cover
3 Dimensions
4 Ella or Lainie
5 Owing the kitty
6 Least lank
7 Dome shape
8 "Illness as Metaphor" writer
9 Sound of disapproval
10 Pop
11 First South Korean president
12 Helper
13 More than half
18 Knights' ladies
22 Put in reserve
24 Partially coincides
25 Kind of dog or banana
26 Joe of "My Cousin Vinny"
27 Egyptian dam
28 Pay out
31 Playground chute
32 Down source
33 Arctic bloom
35 Pop
36 Buckeyes' home
40 Cruising a beat
43 Compass pt.
45 Chimp in a Reagan film
47 Bassett or Lansbury
51 Hurdled
52 Auto style
53 Pigmented nevus
54 Seniors' grp.
55 Loafer or pump
58 Between jobs
59 Identifier
60 Fulda feeder
62 Rather or Marino
63 CD predecessors


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69

By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

6/18/07

**Saturday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | O | D | E | L | T | ■ | C | O | M | E | H | O | M | E |
| A | P | O | L | L | O | ■ | A | M | E | R | I | C | A | S |
| R | E | P | L | A | Y | ■ | M | E | T | A | L | L | I | C |
| C | R | E | A | M | ■ | I | D | L | E | ■ | T | O | T | O |
| H | A | D | ■ | A | G | R | E | E | ■ | O | S | C | A | R |
| E | N | O | S | ■ | H | I | N | T | E | D | ■ | K | I | T |
| S | T | U | C | C | O | S | ■ | S | L | O | P | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | S | T | O | R | S | ■ | ■ | ■ | D | R | I | V | E | N |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | U | T | U | ■ | D | E | S | T | I | N | E |
| E | S | P | ■ | E | S | P | I | E | S | ■ | S | O | F | A |
| A | P | A | R | T | ■ | G | R | E | T | A | ■ | L | O | T |
| S | A | N | E | ■ | F | R | O | M | ■ | S | T | E | R | N |
| T | R | I | M | A | R | A | N | ■ | A | T | O | N | C | E |
| E | S | C | A | L | A | D | E | ■ | F | E | N | C | E | S |
| R | E | S | P | I | T | E | D | ■ | T | R | I | E | R | S |

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6/16/07

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You have much wit and charm, but you also have incredible money savvy. Many of you have a huge influence on other people. You're loyal to family and friends. (You value loved ones.) You're an excellent organizer and manager. Many of you can offer wise counsel to others. The year ahead is wonderfully social, with a strong focus on partnerships.

**Birthdate of:** Sir Paul McCartney, musician; Carol Kane, actress; Isabella Rossellini, actress.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Start this week off gently. Avoid arguments with others, especially relatives and siblings. Power struggles with others easily can arise today.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Avoid clashes with others about money, financial issues or possessions. Although these are areas you're never casual about, your friendships with others are meaningful.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** A clash of egos can erupt today between you and partners or close friends. Don't take the bait. Conflict will only make you miserable. Stay frosty.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Postpone dealings with the government or large organizations today if you can. Whatever you try to do will probably be met with closed doors or negative responses.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** You like to think the best of your friends, and you like them to think the best of you. Avoid power struggles with others today. Don't even go there.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Try to be mellow as this week begins. It's easy to encounter opposition with parents, bosses, VIPs, teachers or the police. Step aside to avoid these encounters.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Arguments about beliefs, racial tensions or travel can erupt today. Matters related to publishing, the media and education also are dicey. Avoid discussions about these things, just for today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** You will talk to somebody today whose values are different from yours. Don't make a big deal about this. Don't try to persuade others to agree with you.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Power struggles with partners are practically inevitable today. If you know this, then you don't have to get embroiled in discussions or arguments. Don't try to improve others: Be tolerant and accepting.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** There's a strong energy in the air today. Use this to make improvements to your job or even your health, but don't try to tell others what to do.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Control issues between romantic partners or even parents and children are likely today. Unless something is very important, let it ride. Tomorrow is an easier day for discussions of all kinds.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Do whatever you can to keep the peace at home and between family members. After all, family is forever. Today, power struggles, especially with parents, arise easily. Therefore zip thy lip

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | 7 | | 3 | | | 1 | |
| 3 | | | 9 | | | | | 8 |
| | | 2 | | 8 | | 3 | | 5 |
| | | | 3 | | 9 | | 5 | |
| 1 | | 4 | | | | 2 | | 3 |
| | 2 | | 1 | | 6 | | | |
| 8 | | 1 | | 9 | | 7 | | |
| 7 | | | | | 2 | | | 6 |
| | 3 | | | 5 | | 9 | 8 | |

Difficulty Level ★ 6/18

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### HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

# Sleek, 'sympathetic' villain in new 'Fantastic Four' film caper

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

WHAT WOULD THE MOVIES DO without dastardly villains who want to rule or destroy the world?

Another such diabolical nemesis is trotted out in "Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer," and our four colorful super-heroes have their work cut out for them as they join forces to foil the latest diabolical plot to pulverize the planet.

This time around, the plan is to leach our planet of its magma core, to fuel the galaxy-wide destructive swath of a monstrous super-force.

Most of the time, however, this ultimate nemesis prefers to smolder in the shadows, and his evil work is executed for him by his all-powerful creation, the Silver Surfer.

This latest super-villain looks like an art deco figurine, but there's nothing beautiful about the violence and destruction he wreaks. In a plea for "sympathy," it turns out that he's being *forced* to destroy everything on behalf of his evil master, because his loved ones are being held hostage on another planet. How—melodramatic.

Further, we're informed that the Silver Surfer's vast powers emanate from his sleek surfboard, so our fantastic super-friends comes up with the sensible plan of separating the surfer from his all-powerful board.

Even after that happens, however, the situation remains dangerous, because the surfer's master decides to take over, and the Fantastic Four are hard-pressed to keep up with him.

It's a good thing that they accidentally discover that they can "exchange superpowers," so this adds to their arsenal of strengths. It also confounds the enemy, as yesterday's fireball is today's invisible man, etc.—Surprise!

All this is sweetly speculative, so viewers on the wrong side of age 13 need to revive their child-like sense of wonder or their adolescent sense of the silly and improbable, so they can enjoy this movie. Ask too many "logical" questions, and you're a party pooper.

Even for silly comics-based capers, however, "Silver Surfer" is too improbable by half. And its really a tall order to be appropriately terrified by a new villain that looks like an antique car's hood ornament!

## 'Silip' and 'Foster Child'

2007 is shaping up as an interesting and instructive year for Seiko Films.

On the local scene, the veteran production outfit has revived the "sexy-sophisticated" film type with the good showing at the tills of "Silip," starring **Diana Zubiri, Polo Ravales** and **Francine Prieto.**

And on the international festival front, its significant and relevant drama, "Foster Child," has won both plaudits and territorial sales in different parts of Europe and the Americas.

Talk about having the best of both worlds!

With its twin successes, Seiko may have found a viable formula for its filmmaking plans for the next few years: Producing different kinds of movies for distinct film markets and niche audiences. That way, it can cover more cinematic ground, and its products don't have to compete with each other.

The success of "Foster Child" is particularly instructive, because it shows that even small and relatively inexpensive movies, as long as they're sensitively created and professionally produced, can make the film world sit up and take notice.

Some local producers think that the best way to compete with Hollywood blockbusters is to also produce pricey adventure-fantasy epics—but that's an expensive fallacy, because nobody can out-Hollywood Hollywood!

As "Foster Child" shows, the most judicious tack to take is to provide what big-time Hollywood has little interest in: heart, insight and inspiration.

As for "Silip," it has rescued sexy movies from the gutter where it has been consigned by viewers for some years now, after a spate of cheapie quickies and sleazies made even the dysfunctional voyeurs out there lose interest.

Some film people celebrate the movie's good showing because it indicates that the viewing public is once again open to mature material, provided it's well-produced.

This is welcome news, because the industry has been churning out generally shallow, childish stuff of late. Sexy movies aren't all that deep either, but at least they have more meat to them!

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|---|---|---|---|
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| CINEMA 4 | FANTASTIC FOUR | 11:40 , 2:10 , 4:40<br>7:10,9:40,11:40 | GP |
| CINEMA 5 | FANTASTIC FOUR | 10:20 , 12:50 , 3:20<br>5:50 , 8:20 , 10:50 | GP |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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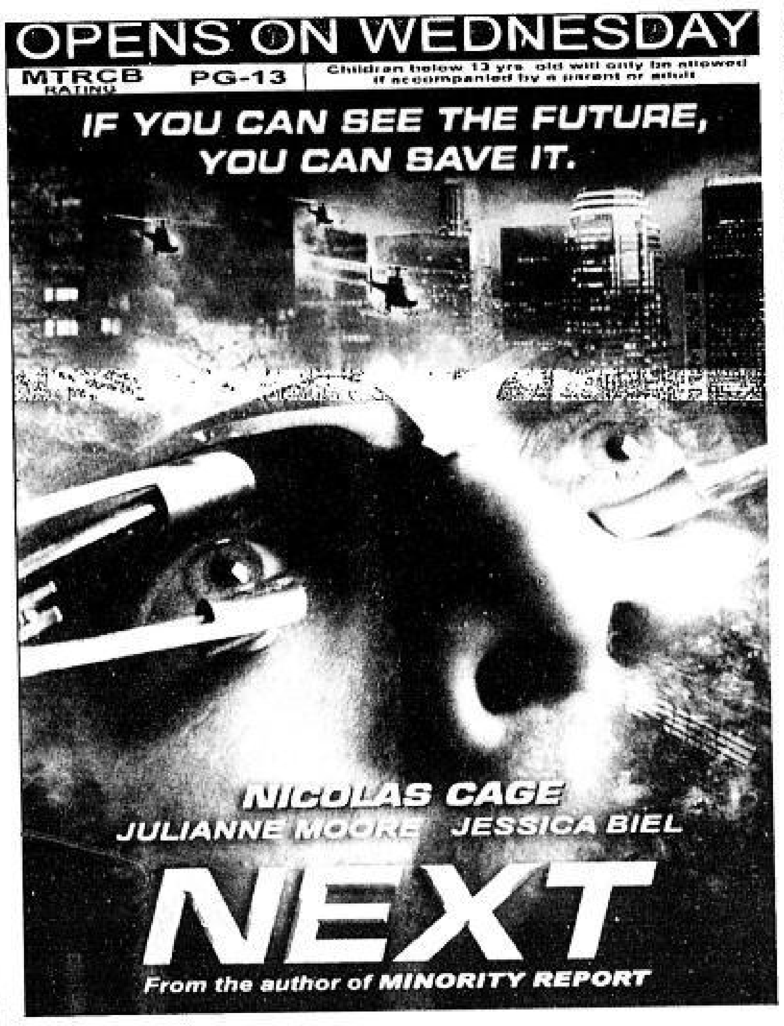

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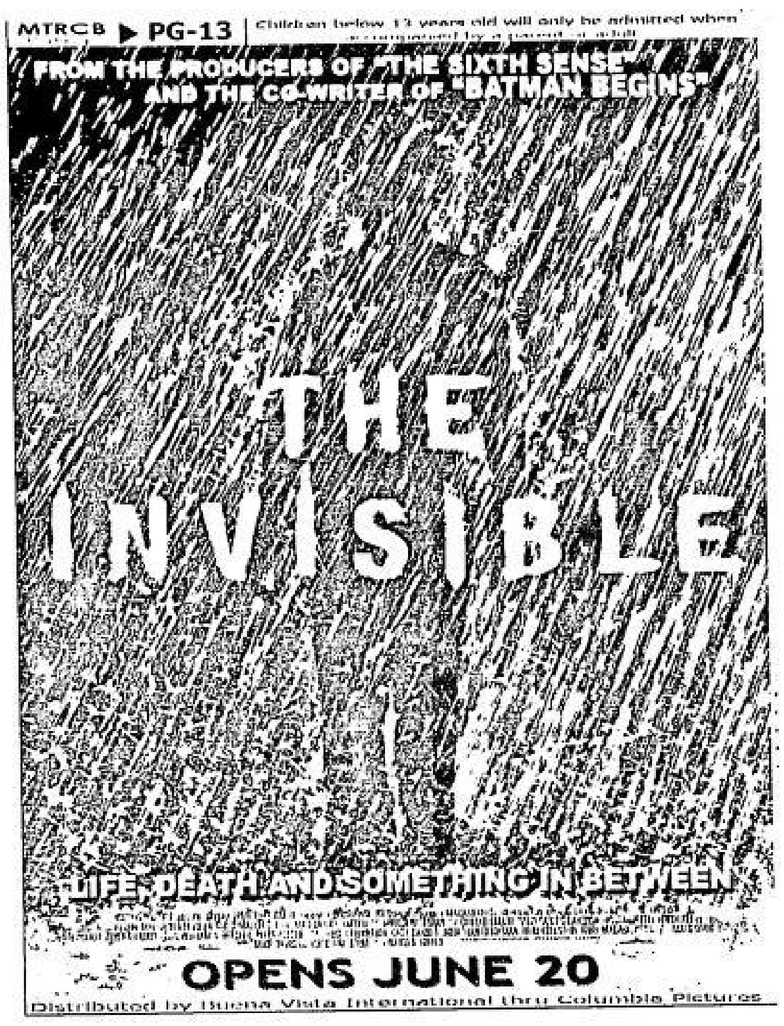

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| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 | GLORIETTA 1 | OCEAN'S 13 | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | PAANO KITA IIBIGIN | | | |
| G4 | GLORIETTA 4 | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | OCEAN'S 13 | THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END | PAANO KITA IIBIGIN | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER |
| GB1 | GREENBELT 1 | OCEAN'S 13 | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | | | | | |
| GB3 | GREENBELT 3 | THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS | THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS | OCEAN'S 13 GUARANTEED SEATS | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| ATC | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | THX FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER GUARANTEED SEATS | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | OCEAN'S 13 | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | | |
| ACC | AYALA CENTER CEBU | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | OCEAN'S 13 | LUCKY YOU | | | |
| M2 | MARKET! MARKET! | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | FANTASTIC 4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER | PAANO KITA IIBIGIN | OCEAN'S 13 | | |

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# When music hits the metro

Friday night was eventful for music-loving Filipinos in the metropolis, with retro songs at the Big Dome in Quezon City, pop champs at Teatrino in Greenhills in San Juan, and hot jazz at Sofitel Hotel in Pasay City

## 'Walang tulugan' at the 5th Manila Jazz Festival

**By Pocholo Concepcion**
*Contributor*

**REVIEW**

WINE FLOWED AND THE MUSIC PLAYED till midnight during the 5th Manila Jazz Festival held at the Grand Sunset Pavilion of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel.

A full-house crowd sat through six hours of almost non-stop performances by 15 bands, each one displaying the agility, emotion and instinct that captures the essence of good jazz music.

Most of the people in the audience, including a good number of foreigners, apparently expected the long night and expressed genuine interest in what they were hearing.

But there were pockets of resistance.

The Jazz Volunteers, featuring Wowie Posadas on electric piano, Michael Guevarra on sax and Mar Dizon on drums, were playing an infectious happy tune called "Malate" when a woman behind us started yakking with her gang: "*Talaga bang* trip *mo ang* jazz?" Getting no answer, she carried on in her squeaky voice: "*Hahaba ang buhok ko rito*..."

Strangely enough, the Jurassic expression "*hahaba ang buhok*" used to be heard only among rock 'n' roll fans to describe an ecstatic moment while listening to a blistering guitar solo from a heavy metal band.

Radioactive Sago Project's Lourd De Veyra, acting as co-host after leading his band in opening the concert, engaged the audience with alternating serious and funny lines to underscore the unfolding experience.

SINOSIKAT?

VERNI VARGA

BRASS Munkeys

UST Jazz Band

### Going nuts

One minute, he lectured like a bohemian professor from Berklee: "Jazz is all about freedom, intonation, colors, rhythm..."

The next, he raved like a college freshman: "That was Tots Tolentino going nuts on the sax."

Tolentino, accompanied by his band he called the BAT Project, made his horn soar like a madman, indeed, blowing out notes that shrieked with dissonance and atonal qualities.

Guitarist Edgar "Koyang" Avenir gamely answered the improvisational dare, but his adlibs were a strikingly cool contrast.

As Tolentino kept up the pace with a tribute to Charlie Parker called "My Little Sway Shoes," we spotted a man about 80 years old tapping his palm on his knee. He looked like a serious jazz fan.

But just when the sax solos took off again and shifted from exaggeration to subtlety, the woman behind us resumed her complaints: "*Grabe, ang tagal naman niyang tumugtog*..."

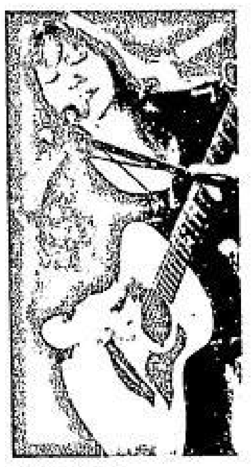
### Revelation

Thankfully, she and her gang had disappeared by the time Kat Arragado and her band, SinoSikat?, took the stage. The group, introduced as proponents of neo-soul with a bit of funk and rock, was a revelation.

Arragado was particularly impressive, her voice a mellifluous instrument that sounded like a naughty trumpet. "*Akin ka*," she cooed, "*aabangan kita*..."

THOMAS Enhco
of The Jazz Angels
PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

MICHAEL YOUNG


CYNTHIA
ALEXANDER

The quirky combination of SinoSikat?'s sophisticated music and pedestrian lyrics was hard to ignore. This band is bound to seduce more audiences in the near future.

The Jewelmer Jazz Band, named after the concert producer and led by veteran trumpet player Popoy Valmonte, proceeded to play an orchestral blues number, followed by the epic-like "Children of Sanchez" by Chuck Mangione.

When the French musician Thomas Enhco and his band the Jazz Angels began to play, the tempo turned fast and furious. Enhco, only 19 years old, manipulated the grand piano like he was baking bread double-time. But he was likewise great when he switched to the violin. The "duels" he engaged in with his band mates bopped with intensity. His set was the best-applauded.

Not to be outdone was the Brass Munkeys, a band that sounded like the Brian Setzer Orchestra. Led by a singer-guitarist who looked like Arnold Morales (Urban Bandits, Put3Ska), the Brass Munkeys played vibrant swing and took jazz to the point where it straddles comfortably with rock 'n' roll.

The mood was totally hot when the UST Jazz Band and the UP Jazz Ensemble played their respective sets.

In between their slots, the still sultry Vernie Varga sang three songs that began with the Manhattan Transfer version of "Shaker Song."

Varga, already a crowd drawer at the height of jazz fever in clubs like Calesa Bar in the 1980s, scatted, hissed and growled, provoking the audience to finally kick off their shoes.

De Veyra, drooling like crazy, collected his wits and said: "To quote my favorite jazz artist, German Moreno...*walang tulugan*!"

## Concert of champions, for champions

**By Cora Lucas**

**REVIEW**

THIS FUNDRAISING CONCERT WAS, IN A way, born out of hope—and desperation.

Organizers of the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) had to stage the show, "Champions of the World," to present this year's Team Philippines—a casting coup of established artists and neophytes in the biz.

But the concert had a loftier mission: To provide moral and financial support for the delegates who are set to fly to Hollywood, California to compete with representatives of over 50 countries from July 28 to Aug. 5.

The singers are urged to look for sponsors who would shoulder their registration fee, airfare, food and accommodation—about $3,000 per head.

"Like in the Olympics, it's the participating country that spends for its delegates to go to the host country," Carlo Orosa, WCOPA national director, told INQUIRER Entertainment.

### Talent Olympics

WCOPA itself is considered the only "official Talent Olympics" for performers and entertainers.

Comprising this year's Team Philippines are: pop vocalist and former CompanY member Reuben Laurente; "Philippine Idol" finalist Reymond Sajor; "Born Diva" grand prize winner Raki Vega; "Little Big Superstar" finalist Aria Clemente; Zamboanga-based Revelation Band; and 2006 Manhunt International semi-finalist Iago Raterta.

Carlo handpicked some of the delegates; the others he had to audition to get into the team.

The competition consists of three rounds, the first to determine the gold, silver and bronze medalists. The medalists then move on to the second round, where the overall world champions will be decided. Outstanding performers will finally perform a panel of judges who will pick the "Grand Champion of the World" title.

The grand winner will receive $50,000 and a scholarship at the The Juilliard School.

"We want the world to know that the Philippines is a breeding nest of artists," said Carlo, who considers everyone in the team a hot contender.

Friday night at the Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills—a venue which, Carlo said, was given to them free for the night by owner Precy Florentino—supporters came as early as 8 p.m. for the 9 p.m. show. Spotted in the audience were TV host German Moreno, talent manager Ronnie Henares and wife network executive Ida Henares, former WCOPA national director.

The Revelation Band was a ... revelation, with its original composition "Amor," a Spanish-English piece that showcased Jeremiah Calisang's powerful vocals. Their interpretation of "Hotel California" had the guitarist, Bobby Piedad, playing with his teeth from start to finish.

The Philippine group stumbled on a gold nugget in 11-year-old Aria, who effortlessly sang the Broadway songs "Home" and "Nothing" in musical theater fashion. Aria almost bowed out of the competition for lack of funds, but Tourism Secretary Ace Durano helped her reach her sponsorship quota.

Reymond showed off stirring vocals when he performed the song "Why God, Why?" from "Miss Saigon." As we go to press, the organizers informed us that Reymond got a P100,000 pledge from a Cebu-based company after his impressive performance.

### Power belter

Raki, who was being coached by Lea Salonga for this competition, gave a power-belting rendition of "On My Own," also from "Miss Saigon" and "Waiting" from "Once On This Island."

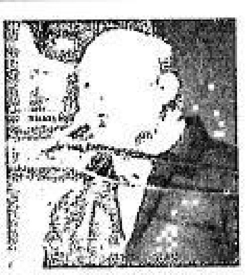
Reuben without the CompanY showcased his vocal range, with pieces for the Gospel and Musical Theater categories.

Jed Madela—WCOPA 2005 "Grand Champion of the World," having won in six categories—demonstrated his support for this year's delegates by performing in the Teatrino concert for free.

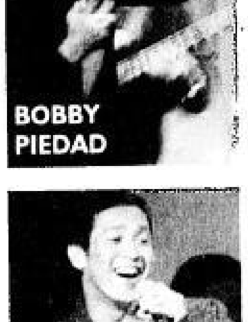
Jed sang a medley of hit songs by his idols Sharon Cuneta, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera.

Carlo, who calls himself "semi-retired," joined the pack in the finale, with the song "Go The Distance."

*For donations to the 2007 WCOPA Team Philippines, call (0928) 772-5254 or e-mail stages_pr@i-manila.com.ph.*


JEREMIAH
CALISANG

BOBBY
PIEDAD


REUBEN
LAURENTE

REYMOND SAJOR

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

## A very appreciative audience

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

**REVIEW**

UNLIKE OTHER BIG CONCERTS HELD IN Manila, the show starring 1960s folk-rock duo Chad and Jeremy and pop band The Association started at exactly 8 p.m.

This was regardless of the fact that half of the audience was clearly still en route to the venue, The Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City, at that time.

In the end the crowd filled up roughly three-fourths of the 18,000-seater coliseum. They were mostly 50- to 60-year-olds, with a few yuppies who apparently escorted their parents or older siblings.

The three-hour show was divided into equal parts between the featured acts. Chad Stuart and Jeremy Clyde took the first half.

"Very appreciative" would best describe the spectators who enthusiastically applauded, sang along and intermittently screamed and hooted to indicate familiarity with each number. Among the personalities spotted in the crowd were Joey de Leon, Mike Enriquez, Mel Tiangco and talent manager Douglas Quijano.

Among the best-applauded Chad and Jeremy tunes were "I Won't Cry," "Be My Girl" and "Dream of You." People joined in singing "Walk Away Renee," "No Fair At All," "California Dreaming." The Association's big hit that night was the enduring "Cherish."

Chad and Jeremy decided to pick up their guitars again in 2004, decades after they stopped performing. Their first comeback stop was the Philippines. They performed at the Aliw Theater in Pasay City.

In Friday's show, the duo dished out a mix of folk rock and romantic tunes and related events that coincided with the release of certain hits.

"This was first heard on a TV show in England," Jeremy said by way of introducing "Dream of You.". He continued: "The Beatles' Ringo Star was a member of its 'jukebox jury.' He said it wouldn't be a success in England but a smash in the States. He was right."

The (original) Association first performed in Manila in 1986. The band is currently comprised of Russ Giguere on vocals, Larry Ramos and Jim Yester on vocals and guitars, Bruce Pictor on drums, David Jackson on bass and Jordan Cole on keyboards and synthesizers.

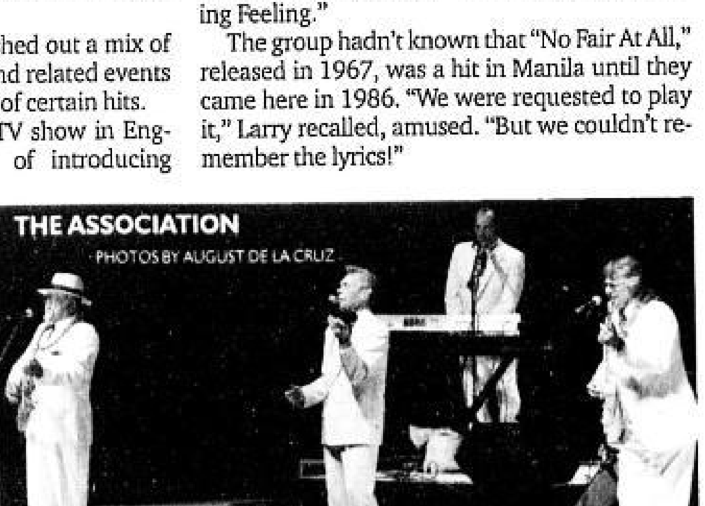
CHAD & JEREMY

Larry shared some interesting trivia about the band who gave the world "Windy" and "Never My Love."

Larry's father hailed from La Union, and his mom was from Pangasinan. "That makes me three quarters Ilocano and one quarter Tagalog," he told the audience.

"Cherish" was the second most-played song in the United States in the 1960s, second only to the Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Loving Feeling."

The group hadn't known that "No Fair At All," released in 1967, was a hit in Manila until they came here in 1986. "We were requested to play it," Larry recalled, amused. "But we couldn't remember the lyrics!"


THE ASSOCIATION
PHOTOS BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ